





## Israel tears down homes in Jerusalem as settlements grow

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Israel is using helicopters, aerial photos and bulldozers to stop Palestinians building in East Jerusalem while it steams ahead with constructing homes for Jewish settlers in the annexed part of the Holy City.

A special department in the Interior Ministry with an equivalent in the Jerusalem city hall have been put in charge of keeping tabs on any building work undertaken by Palestinians in the Holy City.

"Teams of inspectors patrol the Arab part of Jerusalem taking photos of apartment blocks, factories and sheds," Anat Hoffman, a member of the left-wing Meretz Party in the Jerusalem council, told AFP.

She said the interior ministry also used a helicopter which took aerial photos. "The images are then re-grouped and experts compare them from year to year to detect illegal construction," she said.

If the authorities deem regulations have been abused then a destruction order is issued, and could be carried out within 72 hours, said lawyer Linda Bryer.

The head of the ministry's department is Sion Saad, whom Ms. Hoffman denounced as a "cowboy who is convinced all the homes of the 100,000 Arabs in East Jerusalem should be destroyed."

"His activities have intensified since the signing of the Oslo accords," which led to the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last May, Ms. Hoffman added.

Under the 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy, the status of Jerusalem is not due to be negotiated until 1996.

Daud Abasi, a father of five, learnt to his cost of the ministry's efficiency.

Last year he was told by the city hall to build and pay for a small wall around the garden of his north Jerusalem home after a child fell down a ravine bordering it.

But Mr. Saad spotted it from his helicopter and the wall was destroyed, Ms. Hoffman said, waving the file in her hand.

Nabil Solokrot was another casualty of the regulations when he poured concrete in front of his door to stop mud flooding into his home when it rained.

The concrete block was seen and ordered to be demolished.

Ms. Hoffman said Mr. Saad, not taking any risks, personally intervened with dozens of border-guards and a bulldozer to destroy the block. Mr. Solokrot was also left with a \$1,400 fine.

"The demolition of houses and foundations of other structures often resembles a military operation," said Mr. Bryer, who with a group of lawyers has taken on dozens of complaints from Arab residents of Jerusalem.

An interior ministry spokesman told AFP that Mr. Saad did not give interviews to the press.

In stark contrast to the rules applied to Arabs, Jewish settlements are springing up on the "annexed" land. But since 1967 Israel "has not built a single apartment for Arabs," said Sarah Kaminker, a town planner and director of the Jewish-Arab Information Centre in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, about 65,700 homes for Israelis are being built within the limits of "greater" Jerusalem, she added.

## Cetin heads new party

**ANKARA (AFP)** — Former Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin of the co-ruling People's Social Democratic Party (SHP) was elected leader Saturday of a new centrist party, in a move that could shatter Premier Tansu Ciller's coalition.

The new party has been formed by a merger with the People's Republican Party (CHP), which is in opposition.

Delegates of the two parties, meeting in Ankara to agree the details, were later to decide which party will accept dissolution in the other's favour.

In theory, the two will merge under the banner of the CHP. If that happens, Ms. Ciller's coalition with the SHP would be in doubt, as some constitutional experts believe it would be impossible for her to carry on a partnership with a new party drawn in part from the opposition.

Other experts said the decision rested with Mr. Cetin, 58, who is a broadly-respected pacifist and experienced diplomat of Kurdish origin.

Mr. Cetin, an SHP member, was the unopposed compromise candidate. The leaders of the two constituent parties, Foreign Minister Murat Karayalcin of the SHP and Deniz Baykal of the CHP had both refused to make way for the other as leader.

Mr. Cetin has defined his major political aim as the creation of a unified and strong centre left in Turkish politics.

He was replaced as foreign minister last July by Muztar Soyas, a fellow SHP deputy, who himself stepped down in November in favour of Mr. Karayalcin.



**TENSION:** Somali women and men surrounded a protection of the U.S.-led Operation Shield. Pakistani U.N. soldier who guards the entrance of Mogadishu airport. The UNOSOM leaves Somalia by the first week of March under the (AFP photo)

## Princess pays tribute to industrial sector's contributions to the needy

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday expressed appreciation of the Jordanian industrial sector for its continued backing for the Ramadan charity campaign and businessmen's contributions to the needy.

Speaking at an iftar hosted in her honour by the industrial sector and the Jordanian business community, the Princess said that their contributions highlighted the fact that social solidarity was a permanent feature of the Jordanian society.

The contributions collected through the annual campaigns have been benefiting scores of needy families who

received financial and in-kind assistance and grants to start income generating projects, she said.

The Amman Chamber of Industry president and Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa delivered addresses, stressing their determination to back the campaigns, which are spearheaded by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

**Bashir to head QAF**

Princess Basma on Sunday announced the appointment of Awni Al Bashir, a former minister and member of Par-

liament, as QAF executive director.

The Princess received Dr. Bashir in her office and said she was confident that his appointment would further boost the QAF activities and achieve its objectives.

Dr. Bashir expressed his delight at the appointment and pledged that he would do his best to serve the local community benefiting from his past experience as minister of social development.

Dr. Bashir was elected as member of Parliament for the Balqa district in the 1989 elections and was appointed minister of social development in June 1991.

## Jenin rejects limited self-rule, but wary of full autonomy

**JENIN, Occupied West Bank (AFP)** — The mayor and residents in this bustling West Bank town say an Israeli offer of autonomy without a troop withdrawal would make little difference to them.

And many doubt their lives would get much better if and when full Palestinian self-rule comes to Jenin.

Abdullah Lahlouh, whom Israel appointed mayor of Jenin 10 years ago, dismissed the offer as "nothing more than we already have" for the 28,000 residents of this town set among green hills, olive groves and almond trees.

"This is completely out of the question. It's just a waste of time," Mr. Lahlouh said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin proposed the "Jenin-first" option at a summit Thursday with Yasser Arafat aimed at defusing tension over the delay in spreading Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat and senior Palestinian officials have turned down the offer for some municipal and economic freedom, and Mr. Rabin confessed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief was not enthusiastic, but left the plan on the table anyway.

"In any case, we control more than 99 per cent of daily life here, as well as economic life," Mr. Lahlouh said. "What we need is military deployment and elections on all of the West Bank."

Israel turned over education, health, taxation, tourism and social affairs on the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority three months ago.

The move did not dramatically alter people's lives as Palestinians initially ran these departments under Israeli officials.

The spread of full autonomy to the West Bank, specified as the second phase of the 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy, has been stalled for months by Israel's refusal to withdraw troops out of built-up Palestinian areas.

"We feel the Israeli army presence here," said Hisham Abu Hayja, who is unemployed.

"They are out on the streets, they bother people. They tore up my identity card because it had a little hole in

it — but I stuck it back." A two-storey blue, and white fenced-in building, the Israeli military administration building stands in the valley on the outskirts of Jenin town.

Next to it is a jail for minimum security prisoners. But, while Mr. Abu Hayja is tired of Israeli occupation, he and others were wary of what was to come under Palestinian self-rule.

Taxi-driver Hamed Abdullah was particularly disillusioned by reports of bribery and favouritism in the Palestinian Authority.

"I hear that to get a government job, you have to be well connected, even to get a job done," he said.

"I also worry about repression, no freedom of speech, like in other Arab states where no-one can criticise the rulers."

Fadi Rajeh, 45, was also unhappy with a Palestinian police crackdown in Gaza against hardliners and others behind anti-Israeli attacks. "He is bending to American and Israeli wishes," he said.

"Arafat's popularity is dropping as he is unable to get our prisoners released, all I want is that my cousin should be freed and all our friends," he said.

There are about 5,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails, and Mr. Arafat has been pushing for their release as stipulated in the autonomy agreement.

Unemployed, Mr. Rajeh said he had not paid his electricity bills for five years, and was covered by the municipality. He was worried the Palestinian Authority would force him to pay up.

"When Arafat comes here, we will go back to using oil lamps," he said.

But all looked forward to the strongest evidence of Palestinian power that Mr. Arafat would bring: An armed police force in uniform like those in Gaza and Jericho.

"The most important thing for us here is security," said Enad Al Sayess, a hairdresser from the nearby Jenin refugee camp of 11,000.

"Otherwise what would we have gained, it's all for nothing. If we don't have our police, it's useless."

## Israeli group slams conditions of lock-up for Palestinians

**The Jerusalem Post**

**SMALL** four-bed cells sometimes house up to 50 Palestinians being held for illegally entering Israel, according to a report on Jerusalem's Russian Compound lock-up by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

The building is dilapidated, inside and out.

"In summer, the air is stifling, while in winter, there are leaks and dampness," and in many cells there is not enough light to read, the report states.

ACRI presented the report to Police Minister Moshe Shaleh, demanding that the lockup be transferred to

another building. For several years, human rights groups have demanded conditions there be improved.

Dept. Cmdr. David Ben-Yair, responsible for the lockup, said that some of the changes ACRI recommended had been made.

In a written reply to the report, Ben-Yair also said: "There were several objective points that can't be improved because of the character of the building."

He was referring to the fact that the present complex is located in a British Mandate-era building protected by historic preservation codes. ACRI maintains this is a major reason the lockup must be moved.

## Foreign workers in Israel top 70,000

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israel has imported 59,000 cheap foreign labourers to replace Palestinians and another 11,000 are being recruited, Labour Minister Ora Namir

said Sunday. She presented the figure at the weekly cabinet meeting as Israel eased a month-long closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip allowing 900 Palestinians to return to work.

## U.S. aide cites six areas to watch in peace process

**WASHINGTON (USIA)** — In the halls of government, it is considered the art of the probable while policy is seen as the art of the possible.

In other words, says a seasoned State Department official, good policy rests on good analysis which, in turn, rests on good intelligence.

Daniel Kurtzer, the principal deputy assistant secretary of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, provided an insight into the workings of an intelligence officer in a rare, candid, on-the-record presentation Feb. 16 at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Until 10 days ago, Mr. Kurtzer served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs with special responsibility for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The forum was shared by two of his counterparts from the National Security Council at the White House and the Defence Department. Senior government officials and former officials, including ex-Secretary of defence Les Aspin, and several ambassadors from the Middle East as well as European diplomats attended the session, which was titled "Intelligence and the Middle East: What do we need to know?"

From the White House came Ellen Laitson, who is the director for Near East and South Asian affairs and

who previously served as the National Intelligence Council's representative to John L. Moore who holds the position of Defence Intelligence Officer for the Middle East, South Asia and Terrorism. He previously led the Defence Intelligence Agency's research and production effort in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the Gulf war.

Mr. Kurtzer's presentation focused primarily on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, which last weekend saw President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore participate in a meeting hosted by Secretary of State Warren Christopher for the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and a senior aide of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Intelligence analysis, in the view of Kurtzer, has to provide "a sense to the trends, where facts fit into long-term trends and when those trends are likely to impact on policymakers' agendas." The task of intelligence, he continued, is "to get the facts" what the policymaker needs to know accurately in real time and what may have a relevance for U.S. policy.

Mr. Kurtzer explained the primary purpose of intelligence as providing the president with "strategic warnings" about threats to the United States and providing tactical commanders

in the field with the intelligence needed to carry out assigned tasks.

At the outset, Mr. Kurtzer underlined the importance of "regional expertise," saying that nothing will ever substitute for it in the intelligence community or at the operational side.

Generally speaking, he continued, intelligence analysis has to address six main areas:

— A need to understand "local and regional dynamics." In other words, "what's happening today and how does it relate to what happened yesterday."

— A need to understand the social and political environment in which the peace process is operating.

— A need to understand "deeply rooted" beliefs of all parties including "the role of Islam, the role of Zionism or the role of new or post-Zionist Israel." Mr. Kurtzer added: "We need to understand the way people think about themselves and about their belief system."

— A need to understand leadership attitudes. "The question we are often asked is 'what is President Mubarak and what is President Assad and what is Prime Minister Rabin thinking? What are their intentions and what is motivating them and how they are likely to act under certain circumstances.'"

— A need to understand the "hopes, fears and con-

cerns" of the people in the region. It is not only leaders who are important here," he observed that most countries in the Middle East do not provide a receptive environment for polling techniques. Accordingly, assessment of popular attitudes becomes very difficult.

— A need to understand "national negotiating styles" or, as he put it, "a close study of the way people interact with other people across the negotiating table."

Mr. Kurtzer was more to the point when he discussed the problems that beset the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. He enumerated six issues that merit close watching.

First, the problem of "structural fault lines" that exist in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Are these negotiations on track, he asked, and has the Oslo process taken root enough so that it can overcome immediate issues that beset the two parties? The Israeli public's perception is that they have not gained a greater degree of security from this peace process, while the Palestinian perception is that the peace process has reached a dead-end in the Gaza-Jericho takeover. "Is this a structural fault line or a temporary problem," asked Kurtzer. Here, the intelligence community needs to suggest reasons as to why the im-

passé has come about.

The second area to watch, he continued, is the existing agreements.

Why haven't the existing agreements taken greater root or borne greater fruit, he asked. Are there problems in Palestinian decision-making or Palestinian governance that need to be taken into account? Are there problems in Israeli policies and Israeli practices that continue to beset the process? Are there problems in the delivery of donor assistance that are exacerbating the problems on the ground?

A third "particular" area to watch, he continued, is the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Here, he continued, the question is whether the political will continues to exist among Syrian and Israeli leaders to reach an agreement and, if so, why they haven't broken through on issues that are well known to both sides.

"It is remarkable and perhaps not surprising how little is secret about the Syrian-Israeli engagement," he observed. But, of course, what is secret, he continued, are the "desires and expectations on the part of the leadership about what they will concede and when, in order to reach an agreement."

Egypt was cited by Mr. Kurtzer as the fourth area that should be watched in the peace process. He wondered whether there is "a

long-term trend development in which Egypt is seeking a leadership role in the peace process. Does Egypt see itself outside the process, he asked, and what levers is Egypt using to retain the role carved out for itself when it signed a peace agreement with Israel in 1979?

Arab hesitation is another issue that Mr. Kurtzer focused on. "As many positive things as can be said about the Arab world's acceptance of the peace process, including its participation in the multi-lateral negotiations," he stressed, "the fact of the matter is that there has been too little consolidation of Arab-Israeli relations after the Madrid process began in 1991. The intelligence community owes policymakers an analysis of the causes of this Arab hesitation, he added. Or what are the factors that may impel the Arabs to take a more forward-leaning role in moving toward a comprehensive settlement."

Lastly, Mr. Kurtzer said, U.S. policymakers need "a clearer understanding" of the way the American role is perceived in the region. He said his office watches "carefully for indications of whether our role is effective and efficient and whether there are either crises in the region for more assistance or stand-offishness on the part of that assistance."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Cosmos Minutes
17:30	One Le Million Game
18:00	Association Bien Faitures
19:00	News In French
19:15	Caradé De Notes
19:25	Ramadan in the World
19:45	Magazine Zero One
20:00	ALF
20:20	Street Hawk
21:10	By Way of the Stars
22:00	News in English
22:20	Bombardier
22:59	Feature film "The Colour Purple"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:53	Fajr
06:10	(Sunrise) Duha
12:45	Dhuhr
14:59	'Asr
17:29	Maghreb
18:46	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swehah, Tel. 810740
Anglican Church of God	Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590
Church of the Annunciation	Church, Tel. 624590
St. Isaac Church Tel.	661757
Terrace Church Tel.	622366
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel.	630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church	Tel. 71331
Armenian Orthodox Church	Tel. 71561
St. Ephraim Church Tel.	771751
Armenian International Church	Tel. 625256
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.	654832
Church of Nazareth Tel.	675691
The Evangelical Local Church	in Amman
Tel.	811295
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will rise slightly with winds westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	5/17
Aqaba	11/24
Deserts	4/18
Jordan Valley	11/23
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Youssef Rashid	896301
Dr. Jassir Tarif	794710
Dr. Fayez Dabbas	791135
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim	885446
First pharmacy	661912
Fordees pharmacy	670385
Nairoukh pharmacy	626762
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsouni pharmacy	676661
Nairoukh pharmacy	626762
Najib pharmacy	847632
GRUB:	
Dr. Ali Al Omani	273032
Alkud pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Randa Shabla	995710
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	60031
Hotel Complaints	600301
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls	600301
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdel Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hassan Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malbas, J. Amman	664171/4
Palestine, Shamsouni	660131
Shamsouni Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667227/7
The Islamic, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdali	775101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafah	775101/3
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602540/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)883323
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)900560
Al-Hilwa Maternity Hospital	(09)900560
IBRAHIM:	
Prince Basmah Hospital	(02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafis Hospital	(02)274700
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
07:15	Khartoum (SD)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
12:35	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00	Hodshah (TV)
14:30	Kiev (GI)
17:05	Rome (AZ)
17:50	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:15	Dubai (EK)
22:10	London (BA)
01:10	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ)	
Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
10:45	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:20	Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:40	Damascus (RJ)
21:25	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)



## House discusses unemployment, TCC privatisation and Aqaba projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament met Sunday and heard from deputies on the problem of unemployment, plans for privatising the Telecommunications Corporation, and Aqaba port projects among other issues. The deputies also listened to replies by ministers on queries previously presented to them by Lower House members.

Deputy Abdullah Akhu Irshaid voiced his dismay over the rising rate of unemployment and what he called futile measures undertaken to deal with the problem. The deputy suggested that the government cut JD 3 million from this year's fiscal budget to be allocated for projects that would create jobs.

He said that JD 1 million could go to the Ministry of Public Works to finance the employment of daily wage-earners working on the ministry's projects, another JD 1 million for the Ministry of Agriculture to finance afforestation projects that employ as many workers as possible, and JD 1 million to pay daily wage-earners working for the Department of Antiquities on excavations

and the restoration of archaeological sites.

Deputy Ahmad Qudah questioned the wisdom behind the government's intention to convert the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) into a private company.

The deputy asked whether the TCC was no longer able to handle its services to the public, and whether the private sector was more efficient in operating the corporation. The TCC, he added, is one of the most successful government agencies, providing the 1995 fiscal budget with at least 188 million; and by privatising the corporation the state treasury stands to lose a steady income at a time when the country resorts to borrowing to meet its obligations.

"I do not think that the private sector would be more competent in handling the corporation's affairs and in offering better service," added the deputy, who said there was not a single reason that justifies the transformation.

Mr. Qudah demanded that the government cancel plans for privatising the TCC in a bid to protect citizens' in-

terests and those of the nation.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker replied to a query by Deputy Nazih Ammar concerning the criteria for the appointment of advisors to the government.

Sharif Zeid said that the criteria follows the same pattern of appointing other civil servants in other departments.

Ahmad Kasasbeh enquired about the Ports Corporation's plans for building a passenger platform and its benefits to the Aqaba harbour.

In reply, Transport Minister Samir Kassar said that the wharf was being built in implementation of a Cabinet decision upon the recommendation of a Japanese technical team which approved the feasibility study for the new projects.

The minister said that the platform was needed in view of the increase in the number of passengers travelling between Aqaba and Nweibeh, Egypt, noting that in 1994 668,038 passengers were ferried to Nweibeh. Earnings from their transport totalled JD 958,039.

## Visiting Australian trade minister opens major regional trade office in Amman

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Australian Minister of Trade Bob McMullan Sunday rounded up his visit to Jordan with the inauguration of the Australian Trade Commission's (Austrade) regional Amman Branch. The office will be shared with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC), the national marketing body for Australian meat and livestock. The new office will serve Syria, the occupied territories and Iraq to some extent, as well as Jordan.

"I'd like to emphasise how important we think this is," said the minister after declaring Austrade officially open. "Australian businesses see Jordan as a hub for regional activity; our private sector sees opportunities here, and we would like to share in the benefits of peace."

During his visit to Amman, the minister met with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, as well as senior members of the government including his counterpart Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheeb, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaid and Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif.

"This is an important event to Australia," Mr. McMullan said following the ceremony at the new office. "Things have gone very well for us this week. We were delighted to meet some of the senior most members of government and of the private sector — I continue to hear stories of opportunity here."

The minister said that meetings this week had met all objectives set prior to his delegation's arrival in the Kingdom. "This will be seen leading to increased bilateral

trade and investment between the two countries."

Australia currently exports U.S. \$50 million to Jordan in meat, livestock (live sheep), dairy products and cereals, with meat and livestock constituting the main items. Imports from Australia constitute 70 per cent of Jordan's live sheep market and 35 per cent of the total sheep market.

In Jordan, Australia competes with Eastern Europe, Turkey and Russia for the sheep market. Jordan is Australia's main supplier of fertilisers, and phosphates with exports to Australia reaching U.S. \$10 million in 1994.

Mr. McMullan said he recognised that the balance of trade between the two countries was grossly in favour of Australia, but said there are signs that the balance will become more equitable, pointing out that bilateral trade has grown since 1990 and is continuing to increase "suggesting a healthy development."

"Jordanians should explore business opportunities in Australia," the minister added. "We have no tariffs or import quotas — it's a good market."

While most Australian exports are commodities, Mr. McMullan said he hoped that Australia would eventually export manufactured goods and services as well as technology to Jordan. Water resource technology he said, may hold the most promise in technological trade with Jordan, since the similarities in the countries' climates that Australian technology can be easily applied in Jordan.

Australia is an active participant in the water resources multilateral working group for the Middle East peace process.

Other members of the Australian delegation expressed enthusiasm for the potential Jordan offers as a centre for regional trade, citing the zone at Aqaba as a corner-



Visiting Australian Minister of Trade Bob McMullan (second right) and senior members of an accompanying trade delegation Sunday talk to the press about their discussions with government and trade sector officials in Jordan (Petra photo)

stone for Australian livestock trade to the region. In the free trade zone, Australia owns a feed lot for sheep jointly with Jordan (in operation since mid-1994), which according to traders are more efficient and a better environment for the animals.

"One of the main things we expressed this week was how pleased we were with the development of trade with Jordan and development of the free trade zone," said Don Clark, chairman of the Australian Livestock Exports Association.

"(Through the free trade zones) Jordan has allowed us to streamline our live sheep business in the area."

The development of the free trade zone is a platform for re-export, explained Richard Martin, representative of the AMLC — Amman. "We can export 200,000 sheep to Aqaba for re-export to surrounding countries," he added. "We have invested in the feed lots and

blessed by the fact that peace has come at a time allowing them to expand to the occupied territories and Israel."

The AMLC has already shipped a consignment of sheep to Gaza, Mr. Martin told the Jordan Times, adding that the potential for Palestine is upwards of 80,000 sheep per annum. He added that no sheep are being exported to Israel from Aqaba, but "we hope by the end of February that we will send the first consignment to Israel."

In addition, said Mr. Martin, not only does Australia have access to new markets including Palestine, but also greater flexibility to export to Mediterranean countries such as Lebanon, and to North Africa.

"There is also economic spin-off here for Jordan in terms of port revenues, transport and services," he added. "Prior to the inauguration of

the new office on Sunday, Mr. McMullan met with Crown Prince Hassan, who invited Australia to participate in a preliminary series of meetings in Jordan to prepare the ground for the Amman economic summit in October.

According to the Jordan New Agency, Petra, the Crown Prince stressed the need for coordinating efforts to ensure the success of the summit, adding that Australia can contribute positively to the conference by providing its expertise on water, energy and the environment.

Mr. McMullan expressed Australia's willingness to participate in the summit both earlier this week during a meeting with the Minister of Industry and Trade and during a press conference Sunday, saying, "We look forward to exploring any proposals that we can give support to Jordan."

## Locusts swarm northern S. Arabia Ministry says it is prepared for emergency

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swarms of desert locusts have invaded parts of northern Saudi Arabia, and there is a possibility that the vegetation-destroying insects could migrate to Jordan. Agriculture Minister Ben Tarif announced Sunday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said that the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Middle East, have notified Jordan that parts of Tuhama in the northern Arabian peninsula have been invaded by locusts and they warned of the possibility of their movement into Jordan.

Mr. Ben Tarif said that

operations were under way to fight off the pests in Saudi Arabia, and current weather conditions in Jordan make the danger a remote possibility at present.

He said that the Agriculture Ministry here has taken measures to combat the desert locusts in the event they appear in Jordanian territory.

The ministry, in cooperation with the Armed Forces and the Air Force, has made plans for aerial spraying of areas that could be a target of the locusts, and it has sufficient trained-manpower to do the job as well as teams to monitor the southeastern region near the border with Saudi Arabia, Mr. Ben Tarif said.

According to Mazen Khasawneh, head of the ministry's department in charge of protecting farmlands, the Kingdom was last invaded by locusts in 1988 when effective measures dealt promptly with the situation.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the ministry has a central operations room ready to receive and relay information inside the Kingdom and with neighbouring states and international organisations.

"We are in constant contact with these parties and monitoring the situation very carefully," added Mr. Khasawneh who said that the Kingdom possesses sufficient equipment and pesticides to deal with any emergency.

## Agriculture ministry price-setting angers materials trade association

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A recent decision by the Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif to set the prices of agricultural inputs drew an angry response from the Agriculture Materials Trade Association which Sunday said it would protest to the prime minister.

According to Samer Maher, an agricultural engineer and a member representing the association, the merchants are facing new legislation regarding the retail pricing (end user price) for all imported agricultural supplies.

He said that in order to come up with the fixed retail prices, the Ministry of Agriculture stipulates a gross margin of eight per cent on the importers' landed cost of any such material thus forcing agriculture supply companies in Jordan to adhere to these fixed prices or face severe penalties.

According to Mr. Maher, the general assembly of the association continuously tried to contact the agriculture minister to discuss the new laws and measures but the minister was never available at all the times we tried to

contact him."

"The minister of agriculture has shown a lack of response regarding a request by our association for an audience to discuss with him the ill effects of his decision to set the prices of agricultural materials," Mr. Maher said.

Mr. Maher told the Jordan Times that this regrettable decision is viewed to be in conflict with the "revered directions of His Majesty King Hussein and the instructions of the rightly-guided government that calls for the liberalisation of the private sector in order to concur with a market-oriented economy and ultimately shoulder more responsibility in agriculture economic development."

He warned that this decision will put an end to all such imports and will destroy the entire agriculture supply sector.

"This intransigence leaves no room for a market-oriented economy and is in conflict with the existing agriculture produce-marketing chain and it destroys the livelihood of all those working directly in this sector," Mr. Maher said.

In addition, he said, the decision will increase unemployment and also kill the

free entrepreneurial spirit which has been the back bone of the development and advancement of the agriculture sector.

The minister's decision is personal and was not based on any scientific study that will take into consideration all the concerned parties," he said.

According to Mr. Maher, the services and products offered by the agricultural materials companies include, technology transfer, technical assistance to the farmer, advanced products, extension services, farm credit and others.

"The cost of such services and products is proportionately small in terms of total production cost. Yet their value of agricultural production far exceeds the small proportion they represent," he said.

The Minister of Agriculture was not available all day Saturday and Sunday to comment on the issue.

The under-secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, who was contacted Sunday, evening, refused to comment on the issue and said that "this issue only concerns the minister, and I can't comment on it."

## Jordan, Sudan sign maritime agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Sunday signed an agreement on maritime transport, trade and cooperation between their ports.

A statement following the signing ceremony said that the two sides agreed on facilitating and organising maritime transport between their respective ports, the use of seaports and fleets and exchange of expertise designed to serve the interests of the people of the two countries.

The agreement aims at further promoting economic and trade ties, ensuring in-

tegration between the national commercial fleets and launching cooperation in trade and maritime transport, according to the agreement signed by Minister of Transport Samir Kassar and Sudan's ambassador to Jordan, Abdul Rahman Nimeri.

It said that the two sides will cooperate in guidance of vessels, rescue at sea and in the exchange of information on vessel safety.

They will also work together to remove obstacles impeding maritime transport

between Jordan and Sudan, coordinate laws and regulations concerning maritime trading between them, unify their positions at international and regional forums and collaborate in training cadres and in the maintenance of vessels.

Also in accordance with the agreement, the two sides agreed to create a joint shipping line, arrange for their respective seaports to transport goods and passengers, and encourage joint investment in projects pertaining to their joint maritime

enterprise and promote the services of their seaports.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint maritime committee grouping representatives from the two countries to ensure the implementation of the agreement and follow up on the exchange of information and statistical data.

Upon signing the agreement, Mr. Kassar landed the excellent relations between the two countries, adding that the agreement was bound to boost the exchange of trade between Jordan and Sudan on the one hand and

between the two countries and other countries in the region on the other.

Mr. Kassar noted that Sudan possesses a good commercial fleet and expressed hope that Jordan would be able to participate in operating that fleet.

For his part, the Sudanese ambassador said that the agreement reflects the strong links between Sudan and Jordan and the endeavours of the leadership in Amman and Khartoum to bolster inter-Arab trade and economic relations.

## Women's group opens 3rd legal advice bureau

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) Sunday announced the opening of a third legal advice bureau for women; this one at the JWU's headquarters in Jabal Hussein in Amman.

"This bureau is open to any woman who needs legal or social advice on any matter," said Sawwan Ishaq, a volunteer lawyer who is in charge of receiving visitors to the new centre.

According to Ms. Ishaq, women come to the centre with all kinds of problems, such as "marital questions, rape, suicide, labour conflicts, battery and domestic violence."

The bureau provides legal and social assistance to women three days a week, Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Although the bureau was officially opened on Sunday, Ms. Ishaq said, the centre was already aiding dozens of women over the past two months.

"People heard of our intentions to open a third legal advice branch in Amman, and women started visiting us and telling us about their problems and asking for help," she said.

The few cases that the legal adviser handled, she said,

proved that there is also a need for a women's shelter.

"We have already been engaged in a case by which two women fled their homes because they were being mistreated by their families and they had no place to go," Ms. Ishaq told the Jordan Times.

Moreover, Ms. Ishaq said, the centre has already started defending a woman who claimed that she was being physically abused by her husband and was seeking divorce.

The bureau does not provide financial assistance, but helps women by defending them in the courts or trying to find jobs for them.

"It is the right of every woman to have knowledge of all her legal rights and duties; most women lack such knowledge," she added.

According to Ms. Ishaq, the idea of opening the third centre came about following the success of two other centres opened in Wihdat camp last March and in Baqaa January.

According to Ms. Ishaq, the union will start a hot line service within the next few weeks.

"There will be a round table of lawyers, health, psychology and social experts to receive women's calls and advise them," Ms. Ishaq said.

## Austrian firm to study feasibility of proposed Jordan-Syria railroad

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Austrian company will conduct a pre-feasibility study on a proposed Jordan-Syria railroad that would be the first phase in the Kingdom's plans to eventually make railways one of the key means of transport within the region with links to Europe.

The present Jordanian-Syrian railroad is of narrow gauge and Jordan's plans involve converting it into the standard broad gauge and thus making it compatible with the European network that could eventually be linked with the region through Turkey and Syria.

Parts of the network will also be used in transport of Jordanian phosphate as well as potash to the port of Aqaba for Far Eastern destinations and to the Israeli port of Haifa for European importers.

Jordanian proposals presented at the Casablanca economic summit last year involve about 1,100 kilometres of railroad at an estimated cost of \$1.3 billion.

As and when realised, the rail network will involve linkage among Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel passing through the Kingdom from north to south and east to west.

Financing for the project is expected to be discussed in an Amman conference to be held in October as a follow-up to the Casablanca summit, where ideas were presented for various parties for initial discussions.

The pre-feasibility study to be undertaken by Austria Rail Engineering, a private sector company, involves a section of the overall national project. This section will run between Amman and the Syrian border and will have a branch running from Mafraq to Irbid.

The project, rated as "high priority" in the Kingdom's plans, involves 124 kilometres of rails at an estimated cost of \$192 million and is expected to be completed in three years from the date of launching.

The Irbid branch of the railroad will be extended another 70 kilometres to the Jordanian-Israeli border near Al Majma Bridge, from where it could link up with an Israeli network that runs to the port of Haifa through Beit Shean.

That linkage will allow Jordanian imports and exports to be channelled directly through the Mediterranean.

Under present plans, Mafraq will serve the key junction for the Irbid extension to the railroad running to the Syria border as well as another 305-kilometre branch to the Iraqi border. The branch to the Iraqi border is estimated to cost about \$335 million.

Projections call for 600 kilometres of tracks and related infrastructure within Iraqi territory to complete the linkage between the Jordanian network and Baghdad.

In the south, linking the Jordanian network with Saudi Arabia — 70 kilometres of tracks at an estimated cost of \$77 million — would complete the network, which will thus offer rail connections between Israeli ports and Iraq and Saudi Arabia through Jordan in a situation of total Arab-Israeli peace.

Michael Angerer, commercial counsellor at the Austrian embassy here, said the Vienna government would finance the Austrian Rail Engineering study with a grant of three million Austrian shillings (about \$270,000).

The proposal for Austrian financing for the study was initiated during the visit of Austrian President Thomas Klestil to Jordan in April last year, Mr. Angerer told the Jordan Times.

He said the pre-feasibility study was expected to be ready before the end of the year.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### FILM

★ Film entitled "Peau De Banane" at the French Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

### PLAY

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "You Are Not Yourself" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "Nabataean Trade Routes and Cities in the Negev" by Jane

Taylor at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of oil paintings by Sabah Ibrahim at Al Bayraq Art Gallery, Sports City intersection (Tel. 685701).

Exhibition of handicrafts by Hasna Kaymijian at the Royal Cultural Centre. Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology Centre.

"Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre.

Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.



## Mexican government, Chiapas rebels headed towards stalemate

### 20,000 marchers demand army withdrawal

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — The army pushed deeper into former rebel-held territory, despite calls from a church-backed mediation commission for the military to retreat as a condition for new peace talks.

News reporters said that Saturday afternoon they saw some 20 armoured vehicles, troop transports and Humvees rumble into the town of posada, about 15 kilometres (10 miles) east of their former position in the town of Patituitz, east of this mountain community.

By the time reporters got to Posada, all the villagers had fled, leaving behind some frightened dogs, turkeys and other farm animals.

The movement came one day after the National Mediation Commission called for new talks to end a rebel uprising in southern Mexico, but said army troops must withdraw from newly captured Indian villages first.

In Mexico City, nearly 20,000 people danced and marched down a main thoroughfare Saturday to the Angel of Independence Monument, demanding that the army pull back troops from territory held by Zapatista rebels.

"We demand the immediate resumption of negotiations and an end to this war," said Martha Martinez, a law student. The slogan "we are all Zapatistas" was painted on her face.

A group of federal lawmakers was reporting back to President Ernesto Zedillo this weekend after visiting former rebel territory and meeting with the church-backed national mediation commission.

The Mexican Congress will begin debating the conflict in Chiapas this week to see ways of ending the rebellion — a demand for land and social services in Mexico's poorest state that began on New Year's Day 1994.

At the top of the agenda will be an amnesty law that would pardon rebels who agreed to lay down their arms.

"It is still possible to prevent war and genocide," the commission said in a statement late Friday. "Both sides have expressed their willingness for dialogue and a political solution to the conflict. But this is not enough."

The commission insisted talks begin this month and that a "stable truce" be declared by the end of March. Talks last year ended without result.

There was no immediate response from the government or from the Zapatistas to the commission's call. But Mr. Zedillo, who says he wants to resume peace talks, also has said he has no intention of pulling the troops back.

He said Friday that the government "will never again abdicate its constitutional responsibility to preserve its authority in national territory." He referred to land formerly controlled by the rebels.

The rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army has not been heard from since Wednesday, when they issued a communique repeating their stance: they want to renew peace talks, but the army's presence in the mountains is an obstacle.

The army began occupying rebel villages starting on Feb. 10, one day after Mr. Zedillo announced he was cracking down on rebel leaders. A government arrest warrant is still out for top rebel spokesman Subcomandante Marcos.

Marcos led the Zapatista delegation during last year's talks with the government and would most likely be the lead negotiator in any new talks.

The Commission of Federal Lawmakers charged with trying to restart peace talks was heading back to Mexico City this weekend after visiting southern Chiapas state.

During their visit, they met with the National Mediation Commission and with Amado Avendano, the head of Chiapas' rebel-backed parallel government. They also toured former rebel areas now occupied by government troops.



A woman carries her son, wearing a mask and carrying a toy machine gun to resemble a member of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), in Mexico City during a protest march. The march was held to support negotiations in the search for a solution to the armed conflict in Chiapas, Mexico (AFP photo)

## Paper: Michael Foot, former U.K. Labour leader, was Soviet agent

LONDON (AFP) — Former Labour Party leader Michael Foot was an "agent of influence" for the Soviet KGB in the 1960s, the Sunday Times reported, citing retired KGB officers whose statements were quickly denied by the politician.

"Former Soviet spies have revealed that the KGB regarded Michael Foot as one of its 'agents of influence' in Britain in the 1960s and that it made a series of cash payments to him to help fund Tribune, the left-wing newspaper he ran," the Sunday Times said.

It cited several former KGB officers, including Oleg Gordievsky who described Mr. Foot, head of the Labour Party from 1980 to 1983, as "an agent who gave us much active help in the 1960s."

Mr. Foot's code name was Boot, according to Mr. Gordievsky, who worked as a spy

at the Russian embassy here for 11 years until his defection in 1985.

He claims to have a list of 24 British personalities he had recruited as KGB agents.

In his response, Mr. Foot declared: "I had, and continue to have, good relations with people and their diplomatic representatives in London from all over the world — America, Germany, Russia and the rest..."

"I was especially close to the Soviet ambassador in London, Ivan Maiksky, who was a good friend of mine..."

"I reported on the matter in my book *Loyalists and Lovers* and I would be happy for that chapter to be reproduced for the education of Sunday Times readers..."

How these matters were reported back by the KGB, heaven knows...

"Reputable English newspapers should be careful not to be fooled by the Soviet

secret police."

A Labour spokesman rose to the defence of the party's former chief, asserting that "everyone knows that Michael Foot is a democrat and a patriot and these claims will be dismissed with contempt."

Neil Kinnock, also a former party leader, insisted that "these claims are absurd and the complete opposite of the truth."

Mikhail Lyubimov, another former KGB operative in London questioned by the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, characterised the accusations against Mr. Foot as "half truths."

He said several British politicians had often met KGB agents thinking they were diplomats. The politicians were subsequently described to KGB authorities in Moscow as "agents of influence."

U.S. civil rights group elects new chief

NEW YORK (R) — The widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers won a one-vote victory Saturday to become chairman of the NAACP, the oldest and largest advocate for African Americans.

William Gibson, a 64-year-old former NAACP leader in Mississippi, was elected to the post.

Ms. Evers-Williams is the widow of Medgar Evers, who was assassinated by white supremacists in Mississippi in 1963 when he was the NAACP's leader in Mississippi.

Among the organisation's most pressing tasks is to fight Republican moves to end affirmative action programmes, which promote the hiring and education of ethnic

minorities.

Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, hailed Ms. Evers-Williams' victory saying that the election "sends the message that the organisation is now ready to recapture its vital role in our society."

Sources said the vote was 30 for Ms. Evers-Williams to 29 for Mr. Gibson, a South Carolina dentist who has run the NAACP for a decade and was chairman when its controversial executive director Benjamin Chavis was forced to resign last year.

Mr. Chavis quit in a scandal over his payment of \$300,000 in NAACP money to a woman who accused him of sexual harassment.

Burundi president warns of holocaust

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi President Sylvestre Ntibunganya said Sunday that his central African country risked plunging into ethnic bloodshed worse than that in Rwanda last year if extremist groups were not quickly isolated.

His warning was echoed by Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim, who told Reuters after talks with

the Burundi leader: "There is a real danger of a repetition of the Rwandan tragedy in Burundi."

Bujumbura has been paralysed for nearly a week by a general strike called by the opposition Uprons party to press for Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko's removal. Mr. Kanyenkiko resigned Wednesday but has not been replaced.

Mr. Ntibunganya said: "If Burundi continues with these crises we will end up with a genocide worse than that of Rwanda. We must try to marginalise the creators of these crises."

He spoke after Saturday's announcement that a planned African summit meeting on the refugee crisis in Rwanda and Burundi had been cancelled because of lack of support from the leaders of nearby countries.

Rwanda refugee crisis eases — Ogata

NAIROBI (R) — The Rwandan refugee crisis has eased but the security situation in neighbouring Burundi is deteriorating, the head of the United Nations refugee agency said Sunday.

"The crisis situation has subsided and it is now a process of finding solutions and reconciliation," Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news conference.

Ms. Ogata, at the end of a 10-day tour in the region, said in Nairobi that conditions had improved enormously for millions of Rwandan refugees in camps in Zaire and Tanzania.

But aid officials in Kigali, Rwanda's capital said Sunday two refugees were killed when Rwandan troops opened fire at Cyangugu, on the Rwanda-Zaire border.

The officials said several thousand refugees attacked and looted a convoy of trucks carrying aid supplies destined for refugee camps in Zaire Saturday.

Ms. Ogata, who attended a three-day conference in Bujumbura last week on the region's 3.8 million refugees and internally displaced, joined the chorus of alarm about Burundi.

"It is deteriorating and it is on a very fragile basis. What the outcome will be in the next few days I don't know," she said, adding her voice to

## E. Europe vows no compromise on NATO

PRAGUE (R) — Eastern Europe will insist on one overriding condition before accepting an embryonic NATO plan to offer Russia a wider-ranging security treaty.

No pact must ever give Moscow a veto over whether the Central and East European nations, freed only recently from Soviet domination, can join the Western defence alliance.

"If there is a plan we are not against it," an official at the Czech Foreign Ministry said. "If that plan means NATO will expand, it's good for us. But if not, it's the worst possible option," he said, requesting anonymity.

NATO shaken by Russia's hostile reaction to its plans for eastward expansion, is currently looking at ways to buy Moscow's acceptance with a security arrangement out of any special deal for Russia beyond Partnership for Peace, a programme open to all post-Communist nations offering only limited military cooperation.

NATO insists Moscow will have no veto over expansion. But suspicions linger in Eastern Europe where memories remain of the 1945 Yalta Agreement, when the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union carved up post-World War II Europe.

That deal consigned Eastern Europe to 40 years of Soviet domination which ended only with the fall of communism in 1989.

Poland, which with Hungary and the Czech and Slovak republics is in the leading group for NATO membership, accepts that Russia has to be treated differently.

"It is not surprising. They (the Russians) have nuclear weapons. It is obvious that NATO's relations with such a superpower as Russia are different from those with, say, Poland," a senior Defence Ministry official said.

"It is in our interest that they (NATO and Russia) solve their painful problems but this must not happen at our expense."

The understanding runs out when it comes to joining NATO, "we will serve to join NATO and we are not going to ask Russia about it," President Lech Walesa told visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin last week.

The problems are indeed painful. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has warned the West of a "cold peace" if it tries to recruit countries which were its allies before communism fell.

Mr. Yeltsin, addressing the

Russian Parliament last Thursday, urged NATO to back Russian democracy rather than seeking to isolate the Kremlin in Europe.

Attacking plans for "hasty expansion," Mr. Yeltsin said: "This continent... has already generated two global military catastrophes, and we do not want Europe and the world to return to old or new division lines."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has spoken in favour of a special treaty and German Foreign Minister Volker Ruehe has raised the possibility of a deal by the middle of this year.

Mr. Juppe wants to beef up the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe, revitalise the Western European Union — the European Union's defence arm — and "unite" NATO and the OSCE.

Prime Minister Vladimir Medvedev supports membership, but his junior coalition partners are not so sure.

Jan Slota, chairman of the far-right Slovak National Party (SNS), called for brotherhood with fellow Slavs. "I personally think there's no threat from Russia. I think there shouldn't be any (defence) pacts in Europe at all," he said.

Other countries seek to soothe the Russian fears. "NATO is not expanding to the east, it is East European states that want to go West," Romanian Defence Minister Gheorghe Tinca said.

Budapest also says Moscow has nothing to fear. "We believe that with Hungary's NATO membership the stability of this region would grow," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Gabor Szentivanyi. "The existence of a stable region in East/Central Europe is also in Russia's interest."

Estonian Deputy Foreign Minister Raul Mulk called the NATO idea appealing but said: "Giving preference to one Eastern European country over another may involve very great dangers."

He said whether it should join NATO at all. Prime Minister Vladimir Medvedev supports membership, but his junior coalition partners are not so sure.

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## Cambodian army says rebel base about to be taken

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (R) — A senior Cambodian military commander said Sunday his army will capture the Khmer Rouge's main northern headquarters at Anlong Veng within a day or two.

"In general, in one or two days we'll take Anlong Veng. There's only 100 Khmer Rouge fighters still in the area and they're now in the process of contacting us to defect," Lieutenant-General Nhek Bun Chhay told Reuters.

Gen. Nhek Bun Chhay, deputy chief of the army's general staff, is in overall command of the northern zone of operations.

Captured Khmer Rouge documents shown to Reuters by the general indicated the Khmer Rouge rebel faction is encountering severe supply difficulties and morale problems among its diminishing force of fighters.

The general said that within four or five days there would be no big Khmer Rouge bases left in the north

of the country, only small groups of scattered rebels to continue the low-level guerrilla war against the Phnom Penh government.

The dry-season military operation to secure the northern region, which began in earnest in mid-December last year, has resulted in hundreds of government casualties, mostly from mines and booby traps, soldiers told Reuters Friday.

Exact numbers of killed and wounded on both sides were not known.

Gen. Nhek Bun Chhay reaffirmed that there would be no attack to capture the rebel-held Preah Vihear Temple, which sits just inside the Cambodian border atop the rugged Dangrek Mountains.

All supply lines to the 60 Khmer Rouge guerrillas occupying the site had been severed and the Cambodian army had received good cooperation from their Thai counterparts, Gen. Nhek Bun Chhay said.

Ownership of the Obersalzberg properties is already contested.

Berchtesgaden attorney Oskar Steuer represents five descendants of former landowners, who claim they were forced out in the 1930s so Hitler could have his Alpine retreat.

"The expropriation was immoral because the residents were collectively forced into submission," Mr. Steuer said. "We will sue for return of the property."

Meanwhile in Lizzano, Italy, struggling through rain and wind, five U.S. veterans of World War II scaled an Apennine ridge Saturday to reenact their conquest of the mountain 50 years ago in a campaign against the Germans.

Even two German soldiers who were part of the enemy 50 years ago came to the commemoration, including one who had been captured in 1945, said the Americans' spokesman, Dick Wilson.

"We were wrapping our arms around each other. We had a fabulous time," said Wilson, in a telephone interview from Lizzano, in north-central Italy, which served as the group's base for the reenactment.

The U.S. veterans served in the war as part of the 10th Mountain Division.

Hitler's Alpine fortress, but were never completed.

Nearby is Kehlstein Peak, with a restaurant known as "Eagle's Nest," also used by Hitler. It's open to tourists from May to October.

In the town of Berchtesgaden, population of 12,000, the U.S. military is turning over a 90-room hotel, two barracks, 12 family apartments, a post office, shopping centre, and a garage.

The turnover should be completed by September, Col. Bridges said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. resort at Chiemsee will be reopened and 130 employees rehired for the summer season.

Bernau administrator Helmut Schubbeck said the town of 6,000 had counted on 1 million marks (\$660,000) a year in tourism revenues from the Chiemsee properties.

"It's too bad," he said. "They're not mad at the Americans because they see them as friends, but a lot of people are really upset by the Finance Ministry," Mr. Schubbeck said.

Under the status of forces agreement, the U.S. military returns confiscated German property to the federal government. The Finance Ministry then decides whether to hold the property or return it to states and communities.

wanted the Americans to keep the Obersalzberg property for at least 10 more years to prevent neo-Nazis from visiting.

In June 1993, the U.S. military agreed to give up the Chiemsee resort if Germany paid 30 million marks (\$20 million) to renovate U.S. resort in Berchtesgaden and Obersalzberg.

But the deal fell through. Col. Bridges said, because "it would not have been prudent of us to guarantee staying 10 years." So the army went back to its original plan of a bandoning the Berchtesgaden-Obersalzberg resort.

Now, the Chiemsee resort east of Munich and U.S. military hotels in Garmisch-Partenkirchen south of Munich will be kept open indefinitely, he said.

"Garmisch is the centre piece of the armed forces recreation centres... and we had invested roughly \$14 million between 1987 and 1990 in some major upgrades at Chiemsee," Col. Bridges said.

The Obersalzberg resort includes a 270-bed hotel and two villas on the ski slopes of the 1,000-metre (3,300-foot) mountain above Berchtesgaden. The buildings are connected by tunnels and bunkers that were designed as

## Oldest woman costs punter a fortune

ARLES, France (AFP) — Jeanne Calment, the oldest person in the world who celebrates her 120th birthday Tuesday, has cost a fortune for the man who invested 30 years ago in her apartment banking on her early death. Ms. Calment is still being paid a life annuity by retired solicitor Andre-Francois Raffray, 77, under a "viager" deal by which her apartment here would be his when she died. Convinced he would not have long to wait, Mr. Raffray agreed to pay the old lady 2,500 francs (about \$500) a month in May, 1965, when she was 90. Up to the present he has paid her a total of 900,000 francs (\$180,000), at least three times the value of the apartment. "In life, you can't win them all," said Ms. Calment, still sprightly except for her blindness, in the cosy retirement home where she now lives. Mr. Raffray, who retired years ago, is keeping a low profile, but his ex-wife said: "He is sickened by this affair makes him look ridiculous. He hates this kind of publicity." Ms. Calment, who still applies a little rouge to her wizened cheeks, will blow out the 120 candles on her birthday cake Tuesday, and if she stays healthy, she will this year beat the all-time record for longevity held by Japanese geriatric Shigeshiyo Izumi, who passed away on Feb. 21, 1986, at the age of 120 years and 237 days. Apparently frail, Ms. Calment has kept most of her wits and told her doctor Victor Lefebvre, last week, "when I die, I'll die healthy."

Ms. Calment was born in a southern French city into a bourgeois family on Feb. 21, 1875, five years before the fall of Emperor Napoleon III, and nearly 40 years before the outbreak of World War I. She became a grandmother in 1926 when her only daughter had a son, but he died in a road accident in 1960. At the age of 110, she entered the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest person in the world. She knew the eccentric impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh "who often came to visit us, but he was a bloody bad-tempered character."

Sothysayers in trouble

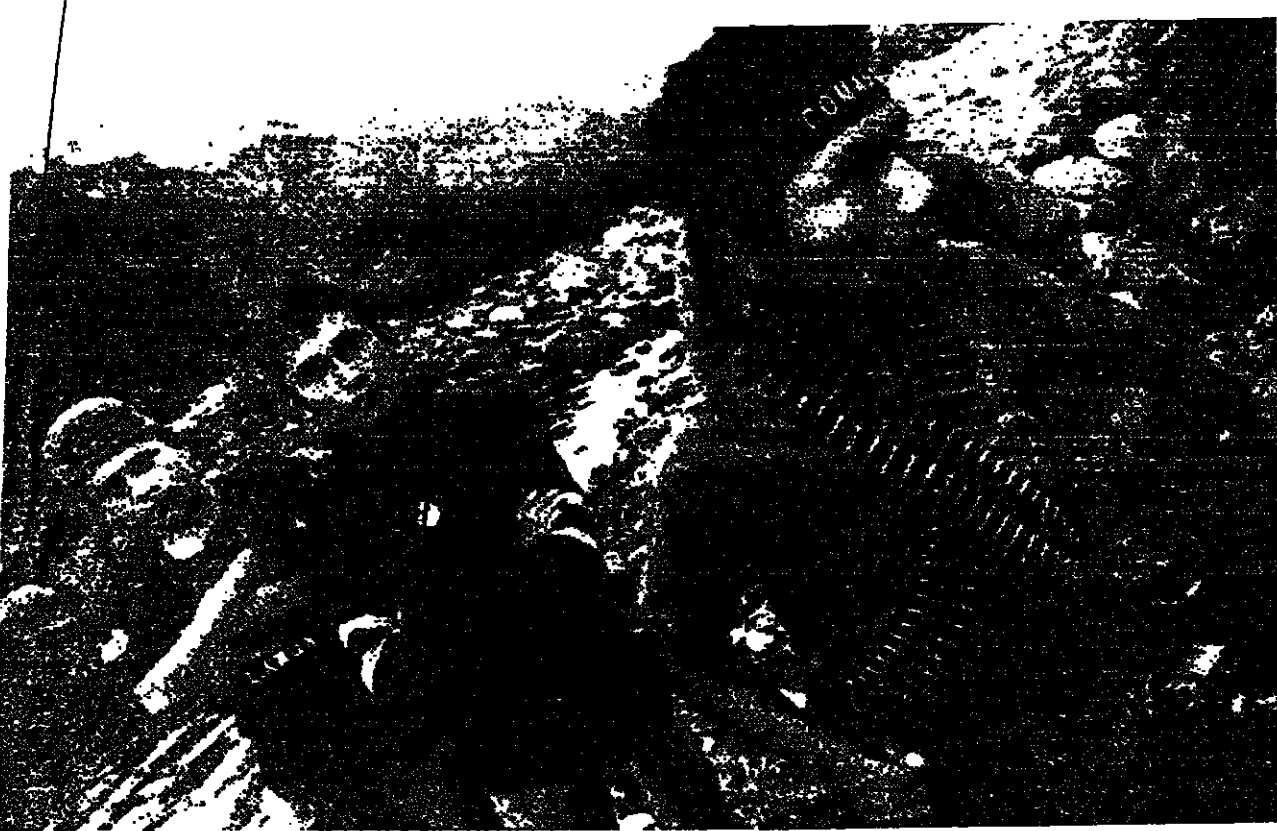
COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lanka has ordered the expulsion of two Indian soothsayers for contravening immigration laws, officials said. The palm readers, R.S. Jeyaram and L.V. Kalyanmoorthy, who had arrived last December on tourist visas, were arrested after they advertised their services in a local newspaper. The soothsayers, both from southern India, have been allowed to stay until March 21 after being taken ill while in detention. South Indian soothsayers regularly visit Sri Lanka where wealthy businessmen and politicians will pay a small fortune for their services in telling the future, exorcising demons and casting spells.

Half a baseball card on sale — for \$452,000

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Half-ownership of a 1910 Honus Wagner baseball card goes on the auction block on March 7 with a minimum price of \$452,000. The card was bought by National Hockey League star Wayne Gretzky and former Los Angeles Kings owner Bruce McNall for a record price of \$451,000 in 1991. Now McNall's half-interest is up for sale, under the supervision of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Lisa H. Fenning. Any qualified collector can bid for the half, but Gretzky will have the chance to beat the highest offer to gain sole ownership of the card. Cards depicting Wagner, a Hall of Fame player, are rare because he objected to his image being associated with the cigarette advertising on the back. There are only 40 known Wagner cards in existence. This card's association with Gretzky and McNall has also piqued the interest of collectors. "The card has had more publicity than any other card in the history of collectible cards," said Larry Goldberg, who heads the auction department of Superior Stamp and Coin, the company McNall sold last year in the face of federal fraud charges. McNall pleaded guilty on December to bank fraud involving \$236 million. He is to be sentenced on July 6, and prosecutors have indicated they may ask for a sentence of up to 11 years.

هنا من الأخبار





Peruvian army soldiers patrol the Ceneba River and surrounding area near the PV 1 military base in the Cordillera Del Condor area of the Peruvian Amazon. Peru

and Ecuador signed a ceasefire in Brasilia after border skirmishes claimed the lives of at least 70 soldiers on both sides (AFP photo)

## Phone-tapping scandals loom over French leaders

PARIS (AFP) — A phone-tapping scandal moved a step closer to French Premier Edouard Balladur this weekend in a case which could seriously embarrass the frontrunner for upcoming presidential ballots.

In a separate development the office of President Francois Mitterrand was also further implicated in alleged illegal telephone surveillance.

The scandal involving Mr. Balladur's Matignon office was fuelled Saturday when it conceded it had authorised telephone "surveillance" of a psychiatrist, Dr. Jean-Pierre Marechal, father-in-law of a prominent anti-corruption judge.

The Marechal case broke last December when it was revealed that he had received a briefcase containing one million francs (\$185,000) in cash from Italy for the Republic (RPR) party official Didier Schuller.

The cash was allegedly given in return for a Marechal promise to use his influence with his son-in-law Judge Eric Halphen to slow down investigation into alleged illegal funds.

Slowing down the complex affair until after the presidential elections in April and May would benefit all involved, but particularly the French prime minister.

Mr. Balladur's office said Saturday that Marechal's phone was tapped in connection with extortion allegations. It justified the action by saying it was investigating "blackmail and extortion."

French law however only permits this particular type of phone-tapping in cases involving terrorism, organised crime or espionage.

It can also only take place with the authorisation of the

ministry concerned — that of Interior Minister Charles Pasqua — and of the prime minister's office.

Judge Halphen is one of a handful of anti-corruption judges who have in recent months probed financial wrongdoing in political and business circles, forcing the resignation of three Balladur ministers.

New corruption evidence could only harm Mr. Balladur, who is still the frontrunner to succeed Mr. Mitterrand, but whose popularity has in recent weeks begun to falter.

The financing racket took the form of fake invoicing and commissions for public works housing contracts for Paris City Hall and the regional council of the neighbouring Hauts-de-Seine Department. Mr. Pasqua's power-base.

Last month, the Supreme Council of the Magistracy (CSM), the judiciary's top disciplinary body, ruled there was to be taken off the case when the Marechal affair, despite the Marechal's office, under the authority of Mr. Balladur's Justice Minister Pierre Mehaugier, had said Judge Halphen was in no way to blame for the Marechal affair, but could not continue to investigate the RPR case.

In another development on the case Sunday, Mr. Mehaugier condemned in an interview with the Journal du Dimanche comments by a pro-Balladur RPR deputy, Patrick Balkany, criticising Judge Halphen over the case.

The comments by Mr. Balkany in the French newspaper Le Parisien Friday, and those by Mr. Mehaugier, are likely to fuel the controversy in the run-up to the

first round of presidential elections on April 23.

Meanwhile in a separate development over the weekend, Mr. Mitterrand too faced new phone-tapping allegations.

Saturday's Le Monde said five computer discs containing evidence of illegal phone-tapping carried out by an Elysee anti-terrorist cell in the mid-1980s had been handed over to investigating magistrate Jean-Paul Valat.

It said the discs contained "stunning evidence" against the presidential cell, in particular implicating officers in the group, but also Mr. Mitterrand's former chief of staff, Gilles Menage.

A former member of the Elysee cell, Pierre-Yves Guezou, committed suicide last December.

Balladur slow off the blocks in presidential race

Meanwhile two months ahead of the first round of polls, the Conservative prepared to take the lead, greeted by yawning disappointment and dogged by his ruling centre-right coalition.

His rightwing rival Jacques Chirac and Socialist Lionel Jospin pressed ahead with vigorous campaigns in a three-way race which shows every sign of getting tough.

Mr. Balladur's bid to replace President Mitterrand suffered a new blow Sunday with a poll showing he had lost nine points in a month — following a clutch of similar surveys which have been slowing the alarm in his camp for the last week.

The poll, in the Journal Du Dimanche, still put him comfortably in front. But it gave him a 46 per cent popularity

rating against 55 per cent last month, and said 48 per cent of the French electorate was dissatisfied with him.

In an editorial the paper pointed out what all Balladur supporters knew: "It was predictable that his popularity would fall once he became a candidate. What is surprising is the brutality of his fall."

Mr. Balladur, who was appointed prime minister following a landslide victory for the French right in parliamentary elections, has for some months sought to keep himself above the political rough-and-tumble, portraying himself as a steady hand at the helm of the ship of state.

The strategy seemed to be working. After the withdrawal of European Commission head Jacques Delors from the race in December, Mr. Balladur almost overnight took over his position at the head of the opinion polls, with leads to excess of 20 per cent over his nearest rival.

The first sign that this cure victory came when the Socialist Party (PS), in disarray following Mr. Delors' departure, finally rallied around former Education Minister Jospin at the start of this month.

Mr. Jospin has since surged to within 10 points of Mr. Balladur in polls of voter intention for the two-round presidential contest, scheduled for April and May.

Mr. Balladur's formal campaign launch last week was intended to seize back the initiative. But the speech was widely criticised as lacklustre and seen as merely a restatement of the policies he has pursued for the last two years.

One Socialist deputy called him the "master of soporific communication."

proposal by the big power contact group — Russia, the United States, France, Germany and Britain — for Serbia to recognise Bosnia and Croatia in return for a temporary suspension of sanctions crippling its economy.

The two men agreed that a lifting of sanctions was a first and essential step to a settlement. Belgrade's Tanjug News Agency reported, quoting an official statement.

They said sanctions hindered peace efforts and complicated the crisis.

Mr. Milosevic would face enormous domestic political opposition to cutting off Serbian minorities in Croatia and Bosnia, effectively abandoning the nationalist dream of a greater Serbia.

Mr. Kozarev, whose government is Mr. Milosevic's closest international ally, has said the Serbian leader should not be pushed too far.

Serbs fighting for an independent state in Bosnia have been besieging Sarajevo since April 1992.

Mr. Kozarev and Mr. Milosevic met in a hunting lodge Saturday in remote northern Serbia to discuss a

capital Imphal. Police said a fourth man was killed about 30 kilometres from Imphal when a hand grenade he threw at a crowd near a television transmission station rebounded and exploded.

Police found two explosive devices hanging from a tree in suburban Imphal while another planted in a city school was defused. Mr. Vohra said.

A television relay centre in Imphal was set on fire just before polling began, causing extensive damage and cutting off broadcasts relayed from New Delhi, officials said. Transmissions were later restored.

The clashes came despite

an intense security operation which saw 40,000 men on the streets to protect an electorate of over 750,000 in the hilly state bordering Burma.

Chief electoral officer Jarnail Singh said the turnout was more than 85 per cent. "People have been enthusiastic though bombs have been thrown here and there," he told Reuters.

People brought painted earthen pots and decorated polling booths as Hindu symbols of good omen and offered prayers for peaceful election.

"We are voting because of the security forces and we want democracy," a woman voter said in Imphal.

## Opposition attacks Fujimori on Peru-Ecuador ceasefire

LIMA (AFP) — President Alberto Fujimori, running for re-election in April, has come under fire for the terms of a ceasefire ending a three-week border conflict with Ecuador.

Mr. Fujimori's political opponents maintain that the ceasefire signed late Thursday in Brasilia requires Peruvian forces to pull back several kilometres behind what Peru considers to be its border.

Meanwhile, Peruvian troops retreating from the combat zone testified that they saw "at least 300 dead Ecuadorans" and that Peruvian losses were higher than the government has reported.

Ecuador and Peru signed the ceasefire after border skirmishes claimed the lives of at least 70 soldiers on both sides.

The press reported one of the Peruvian troops pulling out of the disputed territory said "on our way we ran into no less than 300 dead Ecuadorans in the combat zone."

The retreating Peruvian soldiers also said their forces had lost more than the roughly 30 troops the government reported killed, but they would not give a more precise number.

Most of the border between Peru and Ecuador was demarcated following the signing of the Rio Protocol in 1942 to end an earlier conflict between the Andean neighbours.

The only portion left over was the 78 kilometres stretch in the Cordillera Mountains that the two countries began fighting over in late January.

President Alberto Fujimori's closest rival in the April 9 race, former U.N. Secretary General Javier

Perez de Cuellar, strongly supported Mr. Fujimori during the conflict, but joined the chorus of opposition Friday by saying he had "very serious reservations" about the terms of the ceasefire.

Other opposition leaders followed suit Saturday morning, arguing that the agreement signed in Brasilia was flawed because it did not determine a definitive demarcation of the unmarked stretch at the source of the conflict.

Curiously, one of Fujimori's top supporters, Carlos Torres Y Torres Lara, implicitly acknowledged that the ceasefire agreement did in some ways mean a change in Peru's policies.

"The conflict zone constitutes a space where there has been military confrontation, an area over which there is a question," he said.

This enraged the opposition.

"Why has the government agreed to put on the negotia-

tion table land that our soldiers recovered with courage, heroism and at the risk of their lives?" demanded a prominent politician and former lawmaker Enrique Bernales.

"What was the use of the sacrifices of our heroic soldiers who died defending Cueva De Los Tayos, Base Sur and Tiwinza?" asked leftist Deputy Henri Pease, referring to the three bases that the fighting focused on. Despite Mr. Pease's statement, Ecuador never lost control of Tiwinza.

Former President Alan Garcia, who has been in exile in Colombia since May 1992, accused Mr. Fujimori of "treason against Peruvian foreign policy."

During the war, Mr. Fujimori, a former university rector elected in 1990 as a political neophyte, saw his popularity soar to more than 70 per cent.

Part of that popularity stems from a tough campaign

against Maoist Shining Path rebels that resulted in the capture of top leaders, including founder Abimael Guzman in September 1992. The arrests markedly cut Shining Path violence.

Mr. Fujimori's April 1992 decision to shutter Congress and temporarily rule by decree did not cost him support. In pushing through a re-writing of the constitution, one of the measures he insisted on was an elimination of a ban on re-election of presidents that allowed him to throw his hat in for a second term.

By making all decisions associated with the war, Mr. Fujimori now runs the risk of reaping all the blame should the ceasefire accord turn out to be unpopular.

Political analysts say Mr. Fujimori will have a hard time allaying the doubts that the opposition has planted about him on the emotionally charged issue of Peruvian sovereignty.



A Peruvian army soldier takes a break in the Cordillera Del Condor area of the Peruvian Amazon (AFP photo)

## Unionists to publish own plans for British rule

BELFAST (R) — Protestant politicians bitterly opposed to Anglo-Irish peace plans for Northern Ireland said Sunday they will publish their own proposals for keeping British rule.

Their announcement came as the British and Irish governments prepared to make public their own ideas for how the province might convert the present ceasefire into a permanent peace.

They know the next 14 days could be Ireland's most testing political period since guerrilla violence halted six months ago, breathing new life into the Anglo-Irish peace drive.

The two governments have reached broad agreement on controversial new peace moves involving all-Ireland constitutional and institutional reforms.

But London and Dublin have failed to convince Northern Ireland's majority Protestants that these are not an underhand threat to their cherished centuries old ties with Britain.

Mainstream Protestant Unionist parties say they will have nothing to do with the two governments' so-called

"framework document proposals" but will talk to the British government about their own ideas on how Northern Ireland should be governed.

Political analysts say Unionists' plans are not swamped in a publicity deluge around publication of the Anglo-Irish plans, expected over the next week or so.

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and the smaller Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) are likely to outline well-established policies for continued British rule, with a devolved Northern Ireland Assembly but no executive links with Dublin.

DUP spokesman Sammy Wilson told Reuters his party would publish Monday, the day before a meeting in London between his leader, firebrand politician-preacher Ian Paisley, and British Prime Minister John Major.

Unionists had already made clear their rejection of the British and Irish governments' plans, he said. Therefore an alternative was needed to take the process forward.

"We are giving them (Britain) a way out of their own

folly," Mr. Wilson added. Jim Wilson, UUP general secretary, said his party hoped to publish Tuesday, or Wednesday. "The government has already said they are prepared to talk about anybody's proposals as well as their own...."

"If the framework document is as (Irish) nationalist as it sounds already, you wouldn't expect the Unionist family to talk on such a nationalist agenda."

Mr. Major has denied that the Anglo-Irish document leans towards appealing nationalists. He says it is a balanced strategy aimed at getting cross-community agreement.

Unionists in the British parliament have threatened to bring down Mr. Major's government if he tries to sell them out to Dublin.

Britain and Ireland have spent two years on the fine detail of the proposals. They will be launched at an Anglo-Irish summit, which some political sources suggest might be delayed until next week, after the annual conference of Sinn Fein, political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The quest for peace by London and Dublin was

even a boost when the IRA ended its guerrilla campaign against British rule last September.

Protestant extremists campaigning to protect the province's British links soon followed suit.

Officials expect the document to be put to the British and Irish cabinets within a few days. The governments want it to be the basis for all-round peace talks.

Unionists accuse Britain of betraying them in plans for executive-level cross-border institutions for trade, tourism, industry and other matters, asserting Dublin will be given an unprecedented foothold in running Northern Ireland.

The Irish government will have a say in the reshaping of the Northern Ireland police, the Sunday Telegraph reported here quoting plans outlined in a framework agreement to be published soon.

"The move follows a decision not to devolve law and order policy in Ulster to the new Northern Ireland Assembly which will be established if a peace settlement is reached," the paper, known for its pro-Unionist leaning, said.

## Major's grip on power weakens as MP dies

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major's precarious grip on power was weakened further Sunday by the death of a Conservative MP and signs that feuding within the ruling party over the European Union was refusing to die down.

The death in hospital of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, a maverick member of parliament with a tiny majority in his Scottish seat, reduces the government's already weak control over parliament.

The Scottish Nationalists, just 2,094 votes behind Sir Nicholas at the 1992 general election, look set to grab the Perthshire seat, theoretically putting the Conservatives in a minority of seven in the House of Commons.

Mr. Major's prospects of holding the constituency will be fatally weakened if Conservative infighting over Europe continues.

But the dispute showed few signs of ending Sunday as a former Conservative prime minister demanded the sacking of ministers who did not subscribe to Mr. Major's call for Britain to be "at the heart of Europe."

In an article in the News Of The World newspaper, Edward Heath, who as premier took Britain into the European Union in the 1970s, wrote: "If there are those ministers who find they cannot accept our commitment to a Britain at the heart of

Europe, then they must follow the honourable course and resign."

"And if they show a reluctance to do that, the prime minister should urge them on their way."

But another former Conservative cabinet minister and party chairman launched an attack on Mr. Major, saying he had failed to secure Britain's right to control immigration during negotiations on the EU's Maastricht Treaty.

Former Interior Minister Kenneth Baker said Mr. Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd had wished to concentrate on other objectives such as Britain's right to opt out of a single European currency and common labour market regulations.

"Both Douglas and John were right to focus on the currency and social chapter opt-outs. But the need to reaffirm the old commitment on border control fell by the wayside," Mr. Baker said.

His article reopened Conservative wounds on the issue which surfaced eight days ago when a junior minister, Charles Wardle, resigned, saying that Britain had ceded rights to make passport checks on people entering from other EU states.

Mr. Major last week attempted to stop the party battles over Europe, which have already led to nine Conservative MPs being expelled from the parliament-

tary party. He demanded that his cabinet should stick closely to official policy in public.

But the result appears to have been merely to encourage former party heavyweights to pick up the cudgels.

"Euro-sceptic" former Finance Minister Norman Lamont Friday accused Mr. Major of failing to commit himself on whether Britain should join a single EU currency, saying "deciding to be undecided" would solve nothing.

Following Sir Nicholas' death, Mr. Major has a majority of only 12 seats in the Commons even if the nine expelled Euro-sceptics are counted as his supporters.

With few Conservative seats safe in the present political climate, by-elections could cancel out that majority before the next general election due in May, 1997.

In a by-election last week, the Conservative candidate won less than four per cent of the vote in a South Wales constituency where the party gained almost 15 per cent at the 1992 election.

Sir Nicholas, who was 61, died late Saturday from the complications of a liver disease.

The Baron of Fordell was elected an MP in 1974, and represented the Scottish district of Perth and Kinross until his death.

He had one of the brightest

legal minds of his generation and became the youngest man to be appointed queen's counsel, or senior barrister, in Scotland at age 38. From 1979 to 1982 he was solicitor-general for Scotland.

A special election will be called later to replace Sir Nicholas in the House of Commons.

Sir Nicholas was famed for his unusual clothes, which he designed himself, his ready wit and his direct manner. In Who's Who, he listed his recreation as "drawing ships, making quips, confounding whips (party leaders), scuttling drips." He often criticised his own party.

Martin Robb, chairman of the Perth and Kinross Conservative Association, paid tribute to "the outstanding political contribution" that Sir Nicholas made over the past 22 years.

"His colourful, dynamic personality will be sorely missed by his family, friends and supporters in the constituency as well as by his many friends and colleagues in the Palace of Westminster."

"Scottish political life today stands diminished by his loss."

Sir Nicholas is survived by his wife and three daughters.

He will be buried in the family crypt at St. Theriot's Chapel, Fordell Castle, in a private ceremony. A memorial service to celebrate his life and work will be held at St. John's Church, in Perth.

## Bosnia truce shows strain; Russia works on Serbia

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government forces and Muslim rebels pounded each other with artillery and fought on the ground for a third day running Sunday near the rebel stronghold in Bihaq enclave, a U.N. spokesman said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev left Belgrade giving little away about his mission to persuade Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to put his weight behind international peace plan for former Yugoslavia's multiple conflicts.

In another stop back in peace efforts, rival Bosnian Serb and Croat local commanders refused to attend scheduled meetings under U.N. auspices.

In Bihaq, where a war-within-a-war has raged for weeks despite the ceasefire in the main conflict, infantry backed by mortar barrages fought over Saturday and

Sunday morning east of Velika Kladusa, stronghold of businessman-turned-rebel leader Fikret Abdic.

"They are fighting for ground but we haven't seen a change in the confrontation line or any major successes," said the U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, British Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.

More than 244 detonations — military parades for heavy weapons fire — were counted over the period, he said. Sporadic fighting also took place near Bihaq town, where the Muslim-led government's 5th Corps is bottled up by Mr. Abdic's forces.

Col. Coward also confirmed that Serb forces from the breakaway region of Krajina in Croatia had shelled across the border last week in support of Mr. Abdic.

Elsewhere, a meeting in central Bosnia between Serbs and Croats to discuss the

wider ceasefire was called off after both sides refused to attend. Col. Coward said.

On Saturday, government officers cried off from a scheduled meeting with the Serbs.

The ceasefire, designed to last four months and encourage peace talks, has generally held since Jan. 1 but has lately showed signs of strain.

The United Nations said Saturday Bosnian Serbs fired two mortar bombs into the Hrasnica residential area near Sarajevo airport, but there were no injuries.

It followed a shooting incident in which two Serbs, one policeman, were killed in the Serb-held suburb of Vukovici.

Serbs fighting for an independent state in Bosnia have been besieging Sarajevo since April 1992.

Mr. Kozirev and Mr. Milosevic met in a hunting lodge Saturday in remote northern Serbia to discuss a

## 4 killed, 17 hurt in Indian state poll violence

IMPHAL, India (R) — Four people were killed and at least 17 injured in state election violence in Manipur, northeast India, Sunday but voters turned out in large numbers.

Police blamed the People's Liberation Army (PLA), a separatist militia dominated by ethnic Meitei, which had threatened to disrupt the polling.

The election, contested mainly between Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party and the regional Manipur People's Party, is part of a series of polls in six Indian states.

Congress, which currently holds power in Manipur, lost three of four states that voted

in late 1994 and the result here could have a bearing on Mr. Rao's leadership.

Results of the two-stage election — the first stage was last Thursday — are expected next Thursday.

"The elections have been marred by violence," said I.N. Vohra, a senior Manipur police official.

Police said two civilians were killed and 10 injured in an exchange of fire after an ambush by suspected members of the PLA. Five members of the security forces were also hurt.

Another suspected Meitei radical was killed and two more were wounded in a clash near a police station 40 kilometres from the state

capital Imphal.

Police said a fourth man was killed about 30 kilometres from Imphal when a hand grenade he threw at a crowd near a television transmission station rebounded and exploded.

Police found two explosive devices hanging from a tree in suburban Imphal while another planted in a city school was defused. Mr. Vohra said.

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## Jordan Times

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## Neighbour Europe can do

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's televised message Saturday to the Paris symposium on "the future of the Mediterranean area after the peace process" contained a challenge not only to the immediate parties in the Middle East peace process but also to the international community, especially the Europeans. Granted peace-making has yet to attain its full and complete goals in the region due to the near stalemate on the Syrian and Palestinian fronts with Israel, as the King indeed cautioned, but peace-building must begin here and now in order to consolidate the gains already achieved and lay the groundwork for further progress.

This means that the infrastructures for reconstruction, rehabilitation and the forging of regional economic and fiscal cooperation need to be built now so that the foundations for joint efforts and lasting stability can be laid, perhaps along the lines of the Helsinki formula for European security and cooperation. This will necessarily entail investment in and preparedness for peace-building since without initiating and nurturing this process, the effort to make peace will falter.

Europe especially is well placed to play a "crucial" role in this endeavour. There is too much poverty, great disparities in incomes and rapid rise in unemployment in the region, the monarch reminded his audience, and this cannot be conducive for consolidating the peace process. The peoples of the area need to see and feel the fruits of peace that they have been promised and expected. And unless the international community can deliver on pledges of support, faith and trust in peace with Israel could erode quickly.

The Europeans who neighbour the Middle East and who can feel the reverberations of the region's turmoil cannot afford to sit back and let the Americans (plus some Russian involvement) handle the entire file.

The Europeans know for sure that the U.S. cannot always play a positive role in influencing the negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis, especially since the Americans are either unwilling or unable to use their unlimited support for the Jewish state as a weapon to pressure the Israelis.

The recent shift in policy by the secretariat of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Brussels should be a strong indicator for Europe's political leadership to ponder and assess. The Secretary-General of Europe's foremost security body now sees more threat to the continent's stability from the south rather than from eastern Europe, and he would therefore like to forge new strategic links with North African countries instead of concentrating all efforts on the former communist bloc in Europe. While the NATO generals might soon start to entertain a military solution to the perceived threat from North Africa or the Middle East, it is hoped that the politicians would preempt such a trend and opt for addressing the root causes of extremism in this part of the world.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Rai Sunday suggested that the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan conduct a survey to sound out public views on normalisation with Israel. After the success of the centre in reflecting the trend in public thinking regarding the peace process, union between the two banks and other issues of concern to the public, it is hoped that the centre would turn its attention to measuring the public response to the prospect of normalisation with the Jewish state, as this is a very important issue and constantly on the mind of Jordanian citizens, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that a wide spectrum of society, including writers, politicians and professionals, are wondering about the meaning of the concept of normalisation, which is often referred to in the media. He said that the centre at the University of Jordan has won credibility for its objective surveys and it would be most beneficial to the Jordanian people to learn about the facts of normalisation, especially as the professional unions in the Kingdom have shown strong opposition to any kind of normalisation with Israel. The Jordanian public's views about normalisation are still a mystery, unlike the case in Israel where opinion polls are conducted about almost any issue of concern to the Israeli society, continued the writer. He said that an opinion poll in this case would be most helpful to the politicians, and decision makers and would help the country to take the right decisions.

A WRITER in Al Dustour discussed the conditions of schools run by the Ministry of Education. It is regrettable to see newly built schools lacking heating facilities, which is most harmful to the health of the children in the cold season, said Mohammad Daoud. Having built a modern school, the Ministry of Education should provide these schools with heating facilities to safeguard the children's health, said the writer. It is no longer acceptable to see modern buildings that cost a fortune lacking the basic facilities for heating, added the writer.

## Human Rights File

By Waleed Sa'idi

## Concern for 'family status' is not discrimination

THE MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs has recently stirred a hornet's nest for women when it announced that female applicants for diplomatic posts must be single. Women's associations in the country immediately reacted and cried foul when they read the announcement in a daily newspaper. The ministry was specifically charged with discriminating against women in violation of the country's international treaty obligations.

A closer look at the issue, however, would reveal no such discrimination on the basis of sex. What is at issue here is differential treatment on the basis of "family status." The government is not ruling out women applicants for work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Accordingly, there is no ground for the claim that the government is discriminating on the basis of gender per se.

A more difficult and thorny subject is the "discrimination" on the basis of family status and this is where the international human rights jurisprudence has yet to develop into black and white clarity. The rule of thumb in human rights jurisprudence thus far condones differential treatments on the basis of family status as long as it is "reasonable." In other words, single women can be treated differently from married ones. By the same token, married men can be afforded a different treatment from single men. It is a foregone conclusion that married people, whether men or women, have a distinguishable set of rights and duties from the single people.

The main bone of contention for the champions of women's rights in this case should be whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reasonable in rejecting unmarried women at a time when it accepts men applicants who are

single or even divorced.

In the case of Jordan, I believe that the "discrimination" between single men and women is reasonable and dictated by the social fabric in the country. There will come a time when social habits will change, rendering this currently "reasonable" differential treatment "unreasonable." Till that moment in time arrives, it would be safe to contend that the existing differential treatment is reasonable.

I hasten to explain that the rationale behind this line of thinking rests basically on the premise that married men in Jordan are not likely to follow their wives when posted outside the country. Men are still the basic breadwinners and educated Jordanian men have their own careers to nurture and develop. When the time comes for a women diplomat to be posted outside the country, something which is highly probable if not a sure thing, a family crisis could ensue with a high probability for a family breakdown occurring as a result. I concede that in due course, this social structure would change whereby women, whether married or not, would pursue their own careers independently of their husbands. Of course, when this happens, it will not happen without a price as indeed is the case in the industrialised countries.

An interim middle course can be followed in this context by accepting married women applicants as long as they forfeit their right to be posted in a foreign country. Admittedly, married women assigned to work at the ministry would not pose all the problems inherent in their assignments outside the country. Perhaps the minister of foreign affairs would accept this middle course as a temporary panacea to the conflicting claims.

## The great Atlantic drift away

By Martin Woolfcott

A NEW ATLANTIC pact is the latest idea to emerge from the back rooms where diplomats and security experts cook up possible remedies for our troubles. It is a common reaction, when institutions are failing, to draw up ambitious plans for expansion. So it is with NATO, some of whose members — including France, Germany and Britain — are now said to be in favour of a new agreement, supplementing the original treaty and giving it economic and political chapters to add to redefined military purposes.

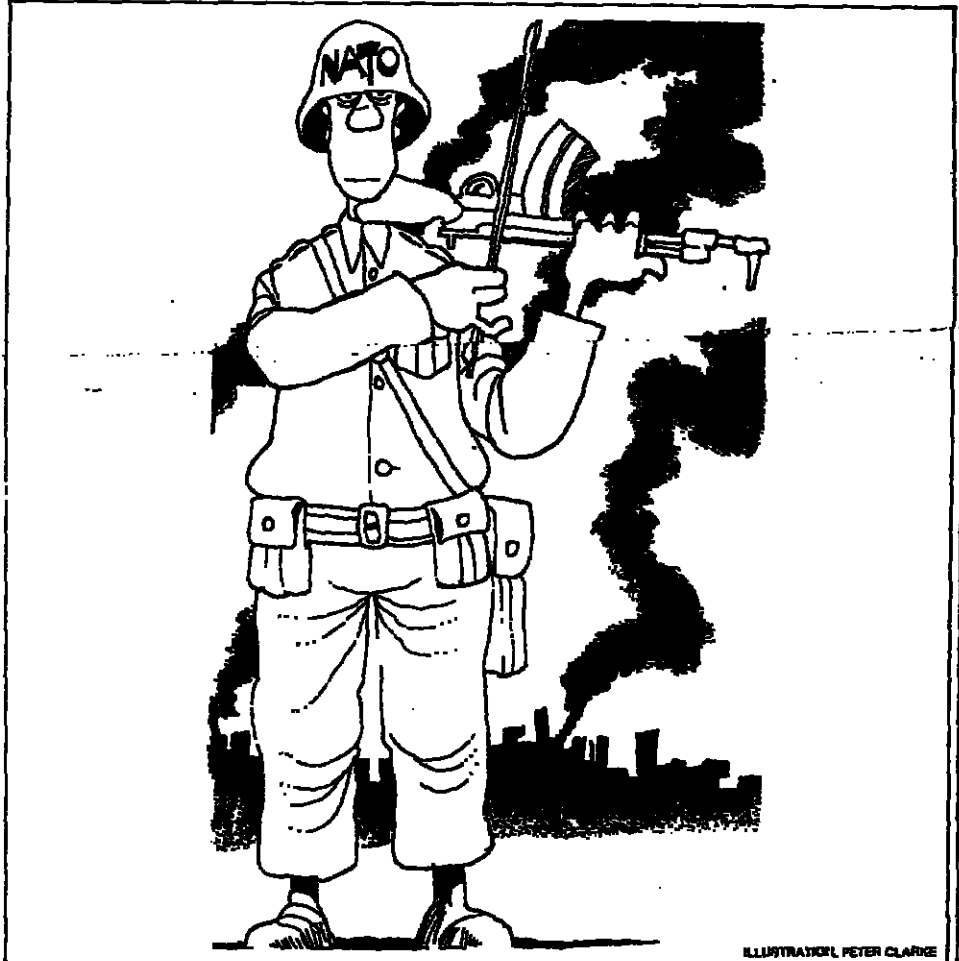
There could hardly be a clearer example of fiddling while Rome burns. NATO is drifting towards a crisis over Bosnia and Croatia, a crisis which could see Europe and America bereft of even a semblance of a common policy. U.S. disinterest in foreign affairs except where they impinge directly on the American economy has never been deeper. Europe's own internal contradictions are similarly turning it on itself. It is odd, to say the least of it, that a number of countries should be reviving proposals for the enhancement of the Atlantic community that failed to gain support when circumstances were more propitious 20 or 30 years ago.

On one level, the proposals are indeed not much more than diplomatic make-work in the face of imminent collapse. Foreign offices must have something to do, and the habit of 40 years in the alliance has been to devise projects, achieve agreements and institute new arrangements. That is how, in the past, it has been kept together. On another level, however, they testify to the dawning consciousness, on both sides of the Atlantic, that there has been a sudden and quite frightening loss of will in both the U.S. and Europe.

Henry Kissinger has written that the European and American diplomatic traditions oppose the concept of "foreign policy as a balancing of interests and diplomacy as an affirmation of an underlying harmony." This tension in the past led to a cycle of difficulties, compromises and phases of successful common action. But what has changed now is more than just the end of the cold war. There has been an erosion of the belief that the West, as the richest and most modern portion of human society, has a special responsibility for the world as a whole.

These questions of national and civilising mission should not be underestimated. Such certainties about purpose have been the engine of effective action in the past, constituting faiths for which men would work and sometimes die. The U.S. seems no longer to have the sense that it has a duty to a world which it is leading towards a common future, a future in which all will live by American norms. Europe, meanwhile, has lost the sureness with which France and Ger-

Rather than strengthening NATO as trouble-shooter, plans for a new international pact testify to a frightening loss of will in both the U.S. and Europe



many, if not Britain, were able to calculate the old continent's interests and plan its resurgence during the period of super-power rivalry.

Recently, Volker Rühe, Germany's defence minister, called at a conference for a "new, wider transatlantic contract" which would add a parallel economic and security cooperation to give it a worldwide range. Klaus Kinkel, Malcolm Rifkind and Alain Juppé, the French foreign minister, all followed through with similar remarks. Everybody here is, to some extent, playing familiar games. The Germans are pursuing the idea of a special partnership with the U.S. that Mr. Clinton dramatised in his Berlin visit last year. The British government is interested in any attempt to repair the transatlantic breach which might partly restore Britain's previously pivotal role. Mr. Juppé's position reflects the shift in French policy from the aggressive pursuit of a European defence identity, through to a more cooperative attitude to NATO and on to a reluctant recognition of the need to offset German strength by moving a little closer to the British and the Americans.

At the same time, since the French concept of a revised Atlantic treaty would be of one between two entities, the U.S. and the European Union, rather than another pact between 16 states, Paris can continue to push for the

"equal" Atlantic relationship it has always demanded.

The Atlantic community is a phrase that has not been much heard in recent years. A long time ago it signified the idea that America and Europe might move along the path towards federation, a notion which the common market and then the European Community effectively displaced, although vestigial political institutions like the North Atlantic Assembly remain. Efforts to revise the North Atlantic Treaty so as to give economic and political cooperation a weight approaching that of military affairs are not new. Mr. Kennedy made a stab in this direction, as did Mr. Kissinger in the early seventies, with his Year of Europe. So did Mr. MacMillan, after being disappointed by De Gaulle. As recently as 1990, James Baker called for a period of European-American dialogue, and Lord Carrington has been another recent advocate of change.

What came to be called the Atlantic community, Mr. Kissinger wrote in his book "Diplomacy", "has been marking time... NATO has come to be taken as part of a landscape that needs no further tending." It is true that there are, in theory, some attractions to the ideas being floated now. A new Atlantic pact might keep in check the harsher economic competition between the U.S. and Europe which has emerged since the end of the cold war. Skillfully man-

aged, a new pact could bring a paper reconciliation of American, French, British and German views of the Atlantic relationship. Again on paper, it could underwrite the transformation of the military structures from an anti-Soviet alliance to a general purpose organisation with peacekeeping and even peace-making in mind. It would fit into President Clinton's scheme for treaties with the world's great economic regions, and as a piece of theatre it might help him fight the isolationism of Congress.

Unhappily, what is going on is more an example of displacement activity, a means by which attention is distracted from what is really going wrong. What the Atlantic alliance needs, above all, is a couple of successful common operations. The opportunity for common military action still exists in former Yugoslavia but has not been taken. The opportunity for common political action exists in the shape of the East European applications to join NATO. Again, it has been fudged.

The loss of purpose evident in both continents underlies both failures, and can hardly be repaired by piling additional alliance structures on those that are already weakening. How it can be renewed, if it can be renewed, is a mystery that lies below the level at which diplomats and bureaucrats do their work.

The Guardian.

## Let's get together to halt unraveling of society

By Boutros Ghali

THE UNITED NATIONS, New York — In less than a month, heads of state and government from every part of the planet will meet at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. They will address a crisis that would have been unimaginable a decade ago: the unraveling of society.

The crisis is of a different order from the ideology-driven nuclear peril of the cold war. Yet it threatens many nations — ultimately the whole world — as much as any weapon of mass destruction.

The danger signs are everywhere.

At a time of unprecedented material progress and economic prosperity, more than a billion people — one in five — live in crushing poverty, amid rising population pressures, disease and dwindling resources. Jobs in almost every country — in some cases whole industries — are vanishing in a rush of global economic and technological change. For many, real wages are declining. Crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and abuse have become everyday features of modern life.

At the same time, disputes rooted in political, economic, ethnic, tribal and environmental factors are triggering carnage and chaos in several parts of the world — and diverting the international community's resources into costly peacekeeping operations. Governments alone cannot control the causes of social dislocation and alienation. Yet they have to face their consequences. Ordinary people hold governments responsible for joblessness, for economic stagnation and inadequate social services. The resulting situations are tailor-made for demagogues, and for organised crime.

The United Nations was founded 50 years ago to ensure the territorial security of member states. But in the last several years only a tiny fraction of the conflicts around the world have involved outside aggressors. What is now under siege is something different: the security of people in their homes, jobs and communities. This erosion of personal security is making people profoundly pessimistic.

Many no longer see the prospect of better times. There is a rising sense of cynicism not only about political processes but also about the efficacy of democracy itself. For the poor, in particular, there is rising bitterness and frustration over the widening gap between haves and have-nots. The exclusion of citizens — and entire nations — from resources, technology and knowledge has brought increasingly aggressive responses.

Unemployment, poverty and social disintegration face societies everywhere. Each contains features unique to every country and region. Yet none of them, it is increasingly apparent, can be met except through international cooperation. The World Summit for Social Development, from March 6 to 12, will provide a forum for leaders to make a conceptual breakthrough — to go beyond armed territorial security towards enhancing human well-being through development.

The summit is an opportunity for government, citizens' groups, business leaders and other representatives of civil society to focus attention on these critical issues, to share information, ideas and experiences, and to frame goals and stimulate action on shared problems.

Specific objectives of the Copenhagen summit should include significantly reducing the proportion of people living in absolute poverty, with special attention to the least developed countries, particularly those of sub-Saharan Africa; creating new forms of productive employment and sustainable livelihoods; and reducing disparities among income classes, sexes, ethnic groups, geographical regions and nations.

The World Summit for Social Development is the major international United Nations summit on poverty, unemployment and social disintegration a principal focus. It is a priceless opportunity for leaders to rethink the policies and objectives of the welfare state model in industrialised countries, and of poverty-reduction strategies in developing countries.

The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

## LETTERS

### Dealing with SLE

To the Editor:

ANY OF us could have "Systemic Lupus Erythematosus" or "LUPUS" (SLE) and not know about it, thinking its symptoms are just usual body nature and live a normal life. One advice though: Reading too much in medical books or specialised literature about SLE can cause problems; leave medicine to doctors. But reading general essays and participating in group meetings help a lot in easing the worries and suffering it causes.

For a start, I would like to give you an idea about SLE. It is an auto-immune disease which means that extra antibodies are produced inside our bodies and they attack various organs, tissues and any inner parts of the body itself. It is considered a rheumatic disease. It causes photosensitivity, joint pain and weakness. Its main feature, however, is a butterfly rash over the cheeks, nose and forehead.

SLE could be very dangerous if neglected. But with the help of the right doctor, the tests and medication he prescribes, things can be better and you can live a normal life. Dangerous though its sounds, SLE could be very mild and disappear for no reason just as it came.

Its cause is yet unknown but it is still being researched. SLE has had a great effect on my life. Being a married woman with responsibilities and a job, I have neglected the disease for a while. Then, I had to go to the hospital for overworking myself and ignoring the doctors' orders. As a result, I was hospitalised for a whole month and a half. I have suffered a lot physically, psychologically and emotionally. Moral: one's health is very important and one should not let life's responsibilities and worries ruin it.

I suggest that we should consider forming an SLE society or foundation for helping patients. At least patients should contact each other through doctors. I really think this will help a lot.

Layla Audi Tahabsem, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.











## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### CBJ gives banks more freedom

★ The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has cancelled a ceiling on bank credits imposed since 1992. Under that ceiling banks were not allowed to extend credits beyond 90 per cent of total deposits. The CBJ will now resort to indirect management of monetary policy such as influencing interest rate movements (Al Aswat).

★ Salem Al Lawzi, director-general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, said the concept of open public markets for produce was a pioneering idea but it has not been implemented in a scientific way until now. He explained that the land assigned for the scheme was not adequate and that the authorities were too hasty in announcing the plan. Dr. Lawzi said the idea will surely succeed when farmers are convinced that prices for their produce are low at central markets and there can fetch better prices at the open public markets (Al Aswat).

★ The Ministry of Supply has fixed the price of Dunhill light cigarettes at JD 1.100 per pack (Al Ra'i).

★ Fayez Khasawneh, president of the Aqaba Regional Authority, estimated the total cost of hotels and other tourist facilities to be set up in Aqaba at JD 500 million. He expected there would be more than 2,500 additional hotel rooms to increase the capacity (Al Dustour).

★ According to Abdullah Wiryayit, head of the Society of Investors at the Sahab Industrial City, investment at the city amount to \$1 billion. They are 52 foreign investors in various industries at the city, which accounts for 40 per cent of Jordan's exports, including minerals. Mr. Wiryayit said that 325 companies have their plants in the 2,800-dunum city. Mr. Wiryayit said the city's main problems are the water shortage and the difficult telephone services (Al Dustour).

★ The Ministry of Transport is expected to invite bids soon to carry out six vital projects at Aqaba port at an estimated cost of JD 63 million. The ministry will expand the port's wharves at an approximate cost of JD 55 million to raise the capacity of the container wharf as well as the wharves for passengers and services. The ministry will build a 4.5-kilometre road between the main wharf and the container wharf at a cost of JD 4 million, pave new yards, including free zone yards, at a cost of JD 2 million to raise storage capacity and open and pave a 3.5-kilometre road for trucks from the port to the southern wharves at a cost of JD 2 million (Al Ra'i).

★ The government will soon issue a decision to halt about JD 1 million in subsidies to tobacco farmers starting the coming season. The decision falls in line with the government policy to provide subsidies only to strategic products and comes at a time when farmers are exceeding the 29,000 dunums area allowed for planting tobacco. Plants manufacturing cigarettes have large stocks of tobacco in their stores (Al Dustour).

★ The Aqaba Railway Corporation transported 2,540,103 tonnes of phosphate from Al Hasa and Al Abiad mines in 1994. Volume transported from Al Hasa mine amounted to 1,880,078 tonnes while the volume transported from Al Abiad mine amounted to 660,075 tonnes. An average of seven trains transported the phosphate every day. According to the corporation's director-general it will cost about DSO million to connect the hilly mine to the railway network (Al Ra'i).

## Dubai expects boom from M.E. peace

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The Gulf emirate of Dubai expects peace in the Middle East to trigger an investment influx into its free trade zone of Jebel Ali, the zone's chairman said in an interview published Sunday.

Sultan Ibn Sulayem said the zone, 40 kilometres south of Dubai city, had already attracted nearly 750 companies from Japan, India and other countries, investing more than \$1 billion.

"The number of companies will increase to 2,000 at the end of this century. The zone is already close to achieving its initial target of attracting 1,000 companies with the advent of peace in the region," he told Al Itihad daily. "The zone will attract more investment as overseas funds are expected to return him following the establishment of peace."

Dubai, the second biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), invested nearly \$2.5 billion in setting up the free trade zone in 1985 and its Jebel Ali port, the biggest man-made harbour in the world.

But most of its companies have invested in marketing, distribution and other commercial activities, taking advantage of the emirate's modern port facilities and its location in the heart of a region of more than one billion consumers.

The zone is currently receiving an average 10 to 15 companies a month but what is surprising is that most local and foreign investors are choosing Jebel Ali for investing in distribution or small

industries," Mr. Sulayem said.

He urged investors to set up petrochemical industries in the zone to tap the large gas resources of nearby Sharjah emirate.

Meanwhile a major new investment company being set up by private investors and the Dubai government is expected to revive the dormant primary share market in the United Arab Emirates, economists and brokers said Sunday.

Fifty-five per cent of the Dubai Investment Company's 1.3 billion dirhams (\$355 million) capital will be raised by public share offering, making it the largest joint stock investment company in the UAE, they said. Of the remaining 45 per cent, the Dubai government

will hold about 13 per cent, the biggest individual shareholding. Other main founders include five Dubai-based banks, they added.

Investors will pay about 50 per cent of the authorised capital at this stage, the balance to be paid-up in five years, brokers said.

Brokers expect the first share offering of 650 million dirhams (\$178 million) in March. It will be the largest issue in the primary market in the United Arab Emirates since 1995.

The share offering is expected to give the local stock market a boost by absorbing some of the excess local liquidity.

The UAE has an unofficial stock market in which shares are traded by telephone through brokers.

## British businessmen bask in Iraqi hospitality

BAGHDAD (R) — British industrialists are being showered with hospitality on their current Baghdad visit, and a spokesman for the group said the businessmen were seeing a vast potential market ahead for Britain.

"We have been received incredibly well," Edmund Sykes, coordinator of the commercial lobby group, the Iraqi British Interests Group, told Reuters.

Sources close to the group said the businessmen would try to exert pressure on their government to soften its stand on Iraq sanctions at the U.N. Security Council. The businessmen were holding discussions with officials of Iraq's central bank and the ministries of irrigation, health, agriculture, industry, oil, transport and communications, interior and foreign affairs.

despite tight U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The official English language daily, the Baghdad Observer, published an open letter to the businessmen, welcoming their visit and heaping praise on "their courageous move."

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The businessmen were holding discussions with officials of Iraq's central bank and the ministries of irrigation, health, agriculture, industry, oil, transport and communications, interior and foreign affairs.

The group includes a representative from the firm De La Rue, which prints bank notes. Iraq says notes worth millions of dinars were printed in Britain before the 1990 Gulf war but were now locked away in London as a

result of U.N. sanctions.

Leyland Trucks is also represented and other sectors covered by the delegation include engineering, construction and pharmaceuticals.

The businessmen are reluctant to be identified because of possible adverse publicity in Britain.

On the other hand British firms are worried about losing business to other countries whose governments may be less strict about enforcing sanctions.

Representatives from American International had meetings with Iraq's health officials. Iraq used to import most of its medical supplies from Britain, one source said, adding that Britain should not lose the market to rivals.

Meetings are also taking place at the ministries of oil and industry and a source said British companies were seeking to sell equipment to the Iraqi oil industry once sanctions were eased or lifted.

### Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

#### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (February 13-February 17, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar retreated sharply against other major currencies at the end of last week, as it ended the week 2.57 per cent lower against the mark, 1.64 per cent lower against the yen and 1.22 per cent lower against sterling.

The U.S. unit fluctuated in a narrow range against other major currencies Monday. This happened while market participants awaited the release of the U.S. January retail sales and consumer prices later in the week. Their expectations pointed to a probable decline in bond prices and the dollar, if these reports showed strong results upon their release, reinforcing fears of inflationary pressures.

The dollar started its decline against the mark as of Tuesday, influenced by renewed fears of inflationary pressures. These fears were sparked by the release of a Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta January survey of manufacturing prices, showing a sharp rise in the price paid and price received components, and giving new evidence of building inflationary pressures in the manufacturing sector. The release of U.S. retail sales, showing a modest rise of 0.2 per cent in January, propped up the bond market.

The U.S. unit rose slightly against the mark and sterling Wednesday, while retreating marginally against the yen. Reports indicated that the dollar rose during early trading hours, influenced by a rise in U.S. stock and bond prices. However, it fell later in view of another decline in the Mexican currency and concerns over the credit worthiness of some major Mexican companies. The release of the U.S. consumer price index showing a modest gain of 0.3 per cent in January did not dispel inflationary fears.

The dollar declined sharply against other major currencies Thursday, influenced by yet another substantial decline in the Mexican currency. Reports indicated that the Mexican Peso fell by 40 per cent since its devaluation on Dec. 20, 1994. The dollar also retreated on news that the U.S. led bailout of Mexican economy might be delayed.

The U.S. unit continued its retreat against other major currencies Friday, in view of continued concern over the Mexican currency's decline. The dollar rose during early trading hours, affected by the release of the U.S. balance of payments data showing a decline in the trade balance to \$7.34 billion in December, from \$10.04 billion the previous month. However, expectations that the Mexican currency's retreat will reduce U.S. exports to Mexico stemmed the dollar's rise.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.4810 marks, 97.30 yen and at \$1.5825 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	10/2/95	17/2/95	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5635	1.5825	1.22%
Deutsche Mark	1.5190	1.4810	2.57%
Swiss Franc	1.2823	1.2525	2.38%
French Franc	5.2585	5.1540	2.03%
Japanese Yen	98.90	97.30	1.64%

\* USD per STD

#### Euro-Currency Interest Rates\*

Currency	10/2/1995	17/2/1995
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.93
Sterling Pound	6.56	7.69
Deutsche Mark	4.81	5.56
Swiss Franc	5.50	4.31
French Franc	5.93	6.31
Japanese Yen	2.18	2.43

Interest rates for 3 months, excluding 1% dollar, 100,000 or equivalent

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 19/2/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0990	1.1045
Deutsche Mark	0.4684	0.4707
Swiss Franc	0.5541	0.5573
French Franc	0.1347	0.1354
Japanese Yen*	0.7139	0.7175
Dutch Guilder	0.4179	0.4200
Swedish Krona	0.0432	0.0434
Italian Lira*	0.0432	0.0434
Belgian Franc	0.0432	0.0434

\* Per 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER 3RD FLOOR				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 19/02/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	780	146665	188.000	188.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3050	22878	4.380	4.490
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2307	9985	4.300	4.320
BANK OF JORDAN	150	540	3.550	3.600
NIDOLAS EAST INVESTMENT BANK	9300	13953	1.450	1.520
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	3050	8373	2.750	2.750
THE HOUSING BANK	3900	23595	6.010	6.050
JORDAN KOWATY BANK	335	1010	3.020	3.020
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2600	9954	3.830	3.840
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2000	6180	4.100	4.090
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	17469	23115	1.330	1.330
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2947	11986	4.000	4.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	23200	33979	1.460	1.470
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>73440</b>	<b>315569</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 160.96</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.261</b>
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	6500	30600	3.600	3.600
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1550	3938	2.500	2.550
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>10050</b>	<b>34538</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 137.07</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.234</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	25843	40586	1.570	1.580
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	104600	158710	1.490	1.510
JORDAN SIDER MINERAL	800	1475	2.950	2.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	390	1740	4.440	4.970
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	26450	91720	3.430	3.460
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDORE HOTELS	16000	39180	2.450	2.430
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>173543</b>	<b>333411</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 134.59</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.731</b>
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	28931	87119	3.010	3.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM PIPES	327	900	2.850	2.750
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	242	2295	9.580	9.460
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	31202	149870	4.730	4.770
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1805	4341	2.720	2.700
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	88	1773	2.000	2.000
SPINNING & WEAVING	1500	3904	2.580	2.580
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	500	1415	2.830	2.830
DAR AL DAKA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3250	26525	8.120	8.150
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	6000	6028	1.010	1.000
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1050	7238	6.920	6.850
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	21700	17469	8.100	8.000
ARAB PAPER INDUSTRIES & TRADING	33850	34618	1.460	1.450
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	450	1110	2.520	2.470
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	200	280	1.420	1.400
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	50	205	4.100	4.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/ICE	5450	4268	780	780
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1400	6790	4.850	4.850
JORDAN SULOPO-CHEMICALS	850	1511	1.770	1.770
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1950	5210	2.650	2.680
KANTIER INVESTMENT	100	175	1.760	1.750
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1050	4470	4.290	4.250
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	37350	80374	2.150	2.150
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>169095</b>	<b>447505</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.10</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.677</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>426128</b>	<b>1131022</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 144.26</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.022</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		242582		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		299293		

## Suez Canal revenues fall slightly in 1994

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (AFP) — Revenues from Egypt's Suez Canal dropped from 1.98 billion dollars in 1993 to \$1.90 billion last year, a spokesman for the canal authority, Hassan Rifat, said Saturday. The drop came even though Egyptian authorities dredged the canal last year to allow ships of heavier tonnage to sail through the waterway rather than around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. The head of the canal authority, Mohammad Ezzat Adel, said in November on the 125th anniversary of the canal's construction that fees for using the canal would not be increased in 1995. Mr. Adel said he expected revenues to fall because of inflation in the international shipping business.

## Salomon Brothers closes division for rich individual investors

NEW YORK (AFP) — Financial firm Salomon Brothers has said it was closing its private investment department, which catered to wealthy individual investors. "We are discontinuing our private investment business in order to concentrate our resources on our core advisory, underwriting and trading business," said Salomon Brothers chairman and chief executive officer Deryck Maughan. The private investment department will close in April. The two heads of department, Bill Heyman and Rich Sachs will be given other jobs with Salomon Brothers, but the firm gave no indication of what would become of the rest of the division's 115 employees. Spokesman Robert Baker said "we have two months until April to decide on a case by case basis." Salomon Inc. Salomon Brothers' parent company, made a loss of \$364 million in 1994, its first since the company was quoted on the stock exchange in 1981. The results reflected a fall in bond broking operations, but also accounting problems such as an unresolved difference between the London office and the New York headquarters over an item totalling \$140 million. Salomon Inc. has said it would tighten control of Salomon Brother's employees and could cut commission rates if the performance did not improve.

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# Tomba's perfect slalom season ends

FURANO, Japan (AP) — For the first seven slalom races of the season, nobody could beat Alberto Tomba. In the eighth, it was a treacherous course setting that derailed Tomba, "La Bomba," the Italian skier maintains. After a mistake up high, he skied off the course shortly before the finish in the first run of a World Cup race Sunday.

Michael Tritscher came from behind on the second run for his first World Cup victory in four years, and Austrian compatriot Mario Reiter shot into second place.

While Tomba's winning streak ended, he also continued a losing streak — he never has won in Japan in his decade as a World Cup racer.

He gets another try Monday, in a giant slalom that was called off because of gusting winds on Saturday after Tomba had slipped into sixth place among the 23 who skied before the cancellation was decided.

An exuberant Tritscher, 29, said he had been having trouble putting two good runs together.

The victory, he said, "would be even better if Tomba had finished the race. 'Maybe next time,' he added. 'Why not?'"

Tritscher and many others agreed with Tomba that the first-run course, set by German coach Sepp Hanser, challenged the skiers with extremely difficult turns.

Four of the first six skiers, including Tomba, didn't finish. In all, 16 of the 63 starters went out on the first run, and another three were disqualified.

But Tomba described the setting as "a course designed to defeat Tomba." It was impossible to get any rhythm, he said.

"After 10 races, they are able to defeat Tomba in the slalom with the course setting," he grumbled. Before Sunday, he had 10 victories in 12 races, with a 7-for-7 record in slaloms plus three giant slalom triumphs.

Tomba still holds a big lead in the overall World Cup standings, with 1,050 points.

Jure Kosir of Slovenia, fastest in the first run and hoping for 100 points for a vic-



Sweden's King Carl Gustav (2nd right) and Crown Princess Victoria (right) applaud the winner of the women's World Cup giant slalom event, Austrian Anita Wachter (left), before the podium ceremony Saturday. Wachter won the

slalom in 2 minutes, 1.87 seconds for the two runs, ahead of Swiss Vreni Schneider and third-placed Deborah Compagnoni (AFP photo)

tory, slipped back into fourth place and gained only 50, boosting his total to 620 points.

Five-time World Cup champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg stood third with 603 after picking up 40 points for a sixth-place finish.

But Girardelli and other all-rounders still have 11 races this season. Tomba, who skips the downhill and super giant slalom events, has only three. Kosir, another slalom specialist, said he might enter the remaining speed races to try to pick up points.

Tritscher, who had one second and two third places earlier in the season, went into Sunday's second run, 15 seconds behind Kosir. But then he skied a 51.78 to Kosir's 52.98.

Tritscher finished with a total time of 1 minute, 47.94 seconds. Reiter, fastest on the second run in 51.41, had a 1:48.66 total.

Norway's Ole Christian Furuseth was third in 1:48.83 and Kosir fourth in 1:48.99.

On the second run, Tritscher said, "I tried to attack, but I was careful too because the visibility was not so good. It was a tough racing day."

He said he felt his second run had been too stiff, "but it was OK."

Reiter said, "This is exactly what we racers needed most, to break the Tomba streak. Everybody was only talking about Tomba."

Having other names on the victory podium is "very important, although Tomba brings much good to the world of skiing," he added.

Tritscher dedicated his victory to Sweden's Thomas Fogdöe, whose career was ended by a skiing accident Feb. 7. Fogdöe had stood fourth in the World Cup slalom standings.

At a news conference, he said he spoke on behalf of all the slalom racers in describing Fogdöe's absence as a great loss.

Kosir said, "I couldn't ski my own technique because right after every gate there was a big hole" left by the skis of earlier racers. He had started third in the first run but 15th in the second.

"I wanted to take a shorter line but I couldn't," he added.

Tomba, speaking through an interpreter, said, "I am tired. I don't understand why I am tired. Perhaps it's psychological" from the pressure.

"Perhaps I need a holiday," Matt Grosjean of Los Angeles was the only American finisher. He placed 26th in 1:55.67.

Grosjean said he had been stricken with the flu on Saturday, and he had wanted to ski aggressively Sunday, "but I didn't have the energy."

Chip Knight of New Canaan, Conn., and Erik Schlopy of Park City, Utah, did not finish the first run, and Paul Casey Puckett of Crested Butte, Colo., was disqualified.

## World Cup men's standings

- Overall (after 23 races)
1. Alberto Tomba, Italy, 1,050 points.
  2. Jure Kosir, Slovenia, 620.
  3. Marc Girardelli, Luxembourg, 603.
  4. Guenther Mader, Austria, 520.
  5. Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Norway, 509.
  6. Michael Tritscher, Austria, 477.
  7. Michael Von Gruenigen, Switzerland, 476.
  8. Luc Alphand, France, 469.
  9. Harald Strand-Nilsen, Norway, 437.
  10. Mario Reiter, Austria, 415.

# Jordan says he will step aside if needed

SARASOTA, Florida (R) — Former basketball star Michael Jordan, probably the biggest attraction at baseball's spring training this year, said Saturday he will step aside if he caught in the middle of the players' strike.

"I'm not a replacement player," he insisted. "That's not what I'm here for."

Jordan, who retired from the NBA's Chicago Bulls in 1993, played last year for the Birmingham Barons in the White Sox's minor league system and is expected to be promoted to the Triple-A Nashville franchise this year.

As such, Jordan is not considered a strikebreaking replacement player. The Major League players' Association has said, however, that anyone who plays in an exhibition game where admission is charged will be considered a strikebreaker.

Under normal circumstances, spring training exhibition games where admission is charged feature Major League players and players hoping to make major league rosters.

"I don't want to put myself in the middle of this," Jordan said following a light workout at the Chicago White Sox camp here Saturday. "If somehow I'm caught in the middle, I'm not a pleased person and I'll have to re-evaluate my situation."

"If I become such a focal point in this strike situation where you're worrying about me instead of settling the strike, I'd rather step aside and see if you can solve the situation and then I'll come back."

But Jordan prefers not to have to make such a tough decision. He said he hoped the strike, which started August 12, would be settled quickly so he can get his mind back on pursuing his dream of getting to the Major Leagues through dedication and hard work.

Jordan did not have to report for camp until next week, but he showed up early, hoping to get in some extra work on his hitting and fielding skills.

"I'm more aware of what it takes now (to be a baseball player)," he said, adding: "I'm starting to be-



Michael Jordan works on his swing during the Chicago White Sox training camp (AFP photo)

lieve in myself."

Jordan took batting practice with the catchers on Saturday and, after some early jitters and a lot of ground balls, he began hitting line drives. He even smacked a home run over the 340-foot mark in left field, to the delight of several fans watching there.

"Physically, I'm building myself up to where I can swing the bat more aggressively," he said. "Last year I was just trying to make contact, but that may have been a mistake."

Jordan batted just .202 for Birmingham and hit

# De La Hoya defends WBO crown

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A frustrated Oscar De La Hoya brawled and wrestled with John Molina for 12 rounds Saturday night before emerging with his 17th straight pro win and his WBO lightweight crown intact.

De La Hoya, in the toughest fight of his young pro career, knocked Molina down in the first round, then found himself in a brawl before winning a unanimous 12-round decision over the IBF junior lightweight champion.

It was the first loss in five years and 15 fights for the Puerto Rican challenger.

But in the end it was a clearcut decision for De La Hoya, who spent much of the later rounds in clinches with the onrushing Molina, and the rest of the time complaining to referee Mills Lane about the challenger's tactics.

Judges Jerry Roth and John Rupert had De La Hoya ahead 116-111, while Chick Giampa had it 117-110. The Associated Press had De La Hoya ahead 117-110.

The bout topped a card in which De La Hoya's 1992 Olympic teammate, Montell Griffin, upset James Toney in a majority decision in a light heavyweight fight.

three home runs — hardly Major League material but the White Sox apparently are pleased with his progress.

"He looked fine," said Chicago general manager Ron Schuler. "He's using his legs better and should hit a lot more home runs. I see a lot of improvement."

Jordan admitted, though, that 1995 is his "make-or-break" year. He said he would be content to remain in the minor leagues only if he continues to make progress, adding that he nearly gave up at one point last year.

"I had to change my whole outlook," he said. "I was trying to be seven out of ten and it was a real battle with myself to accept that in baseball the success rate is three out of ten."

Jordan added: "You have to actually go through it before you believe it. It was tough for me to accept such a high failure rate."

The real success for Jordan is that he is still in professional baseball one year after many sayers said he would wash out in his first year.

"Those people didn't know me as a person," Jordan responded.

# Stockton passes 10,000th assist

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Chris Mills scored 23 points and Cleveland limited New Jersey to 25 second-half points as the Cavaliers, the NBA's best defensive team, won the game by holding the Nets scoreless for 4:33 down the stretch, wiping out a 72-71 deficit. The 25 second-half points and seven third-quarter points both matched franchise record-lows for the Nets.

P.J. Brown gave New Jersey the 1-point lead with a 15-foot jumper with 5:01 left, but the Nets didn't score again until Kenny Anderson's layup with 28 seconds remaining.

Jazz 106, Celtics 98: In Salt Lake City, John Stockton became the first player in NBA history to reach 10,000 assists when Utah defeated Boston.

Stockton, who had 15 assists for the game and is on pace to lead the NBA in assists for the eighth consecutive season, reached the milestone with 3:41 left in the second quarter when he passed to Karl Malone for a layup. Stockton broke Magic Johnson's NBA record of 9,921 on Feb. 1, also on a pass to Malone.

Adam Keefe, who scored only five points, got all of them in the final 2:04 of the game to lift the Jazz to victory.

Spurs 111, Hawks 97: In San Antonio, Vinny Del Negro scored a career-high 31 points, boosting San Antonio to victory over Atlanta, snapping the Hawks' four-game winning streak.

David Robinson had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs despite sitting out the fourth quarter, and Sean Elliott scored 16 points for San Antonio, which claimed its 11th victory in 12 games.

Del Negro eclipsed his previous career record of 28 points with a 3-point shot with 2:10 left, drawing a standing ovation from the



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) accepts a basketball from Houston Rockets' Hakeem Olajuwon at the White House on Saturday (AFP photo)

Alamodome crowd of 33,072, the sixth time this season San Antonio has attracted more than 30,000.

Bucks 118, Bulls 111: In Milwaukee, Vin Baker tied his season high with 27 points and rookie Glenn Robinson had 26 points and a career-high 17 rebounds for Milwaukee against Chicago.

Eric Murdock added a season-high 25 points and 10 assists for the Bucks, who beat Chicago for the third time this season and won their first season-series against the Bulls since the 1985-1986 season. The teams meet two times.

Milwaukee grabbed its biggest lead of the game, 99-82, after opening the fourth quarter with a 15-10 run. Baker capped the burst with a basket and three-point play.

Toni Kukoc scored 13 of his 27 points in the final quarter as the Bulls tried to rally, but never got closer than five points.

The Bucks made 14 of 18 free throws in the final 2:28 to seal the victory. Robinson was 4-for-4 and Murdock 5-for-8 with the game on the line.

Supersonics 129, Warriors 117: In Oakland, California, Detlef Schrempf scored 17 of

his 31 points in a decisive fourth-quarter, leading Seattle past Golden State.

The Sonics have won five straight and 11 of 13 meetings against the Warriors, who have not put together back-to-back wins since Dec. 22 and 27. Golden State lost its third straight home game.

Leading 94-92 early in the fourth-quarter, the Sonics scored nine straight points in a span of 1:10 to take control of the game. Schrempf's put-back with 9:23 to play gave Seattle a 103-92 lead.

Latrell Sprewell led Golden State with 30 points while Time Hardaway had 21 points and added a second straight 19-assist game. Chris Gatling tied this season high with 26 points and 12 rebounds.

Gary Payton had 29 points and Kendall Gill 22 for the Sonics.

The Warriors traded forward Tom Gulgiotta, who came to Golden State in the Chris Webber deal, to the Minnesota Timberwolves three hours before the game.

**RESULTS**

Charlotte	110	Detroit	88
Cleveland	82	New Jersey	75
Philadelphia	95	Denver	89
Milwaukee	118	Chicago	111
San Antonio	111	Atlanta	97
Utah	106	Boston	98
Seattle	129	Golden State	117
Sacramento	109	LA Clippers	92



German Mark Warnecke jubilates after breaking the 50m breaststroke world record (AFP photo)

# Kennedy snaps 14-year swim record

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Angela Kennedy of Australia broke one of swimming's oldest world records — the 100-metre butterfly mark held by Mary T. Meagher — to highlight the first day Saturday of the short-course world cup.

Kennedy swam a full second in breaking the American swimmer's 14-year-old mark. She touched the wall in 58.77 seconds race to eclipse Meagher's 59.91 set in January of 1981.

A pair of world records and five year's best times were recorded Saturday at the Arena festival, the last of seven short-course World Cups held this year.

Germany's Mark Warnecke swam the 50-metre-breaststroke in 27.00 seconds to shatter the mark held by Dmitri Volkov by 15-hundredths of a second. Volkov was swimming for the Soviet Union when he set the mark five years ago.

"I'm the best sprinter in the world at the moment," the sports student crowed and thrust his fist at the crowd after winning.

Warnecke, 25, had not been among swimming's elite until he underwent a serious shoulder operation after a motorcycle crash last year. While lying in the hospital, he vowed to take swimming more seriously when he resumed training last October.

"I told myself either I really try — or I quit. No more halfway," he said.

Two of the biggest stars at the event also won their events by swimming a year's best.

Olympic and world champion Alexander Popov of Russia dominated the 100-

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A little more thought before playing to the first trick might have pointed the way to the winning line. West is marked with the three mis-

ter freestyle with a time of 47.21 seconds, while Francis Van Almsick swept both the 50- and 100-metre freestyle races.

The German teenager posted 25.03 in the 50-metre and 1:55.91 minutes in the longer distance. Afterwards, she expressed relief at her year's best times.

"It's hardly that easy to swim well in front of a home public," Van Almsick said.

Olympic champion Krisztina Egersegi of Hungary bettered the 200-metre-breaststroke European record to 2:06.98 minutes. She improved the mark held by Italy's Lorenza Vigarani by 32-hundredths of a second.

Kennedy established herself as the favorite to win the Opel car given for the best performance after her dazzling time in the butterfly event.



# Everton storm

LONDON (Agencies) — Joe Royle's F.A. Cup expertise rubbed off on Everton as they stormed into the quarter-finals with an emphatic 5-0 victory over Norwich Saturday.

The Goodison Park manager, who had a history of giant killings during his spell with Oldham twice steering them into the semi-finals, watched his Premiership strugglers brush aside their opponents with ease.

Sweden's Anders Limpar began the goal-spree with a seventh minute strike and Joe Parkinson added his first ever goal for the club before half-time.

Paul Rideout, Duncan Ferguson and Graham Stuart completed the rout as Everton, who have won the competition four times, cruised to a surprisingly comfortable victory.

After the biggest win of his tenure at Everton, Royle singled out Limpar for particular praise after the Swede scored his second goal for the Merseysiders following his excellent strike at West Ham on Monday.

Royle said: "I thought Anders was terrific. We all know what he can do but he's a bit of a nervous lad for all he's done in his career, including his time in Italy."

Royle also admitted that it would be difficult not to give the Swedish international a permanent place in the first-team, adding:

"You could see what immense ability he has and when he turns in a performance like that you have to find a place for him."

Tottenham, aiming for their third quarter-final place in the last five seasons, grabbed a 21st minute lead against Southampton through German star Jurgen Klinsmann's 20th goal of the season.

But their joy lasted just a

minute it was fouled by a Southampton player, who was sent off. The game was eventually abandoned after 90 minutes.

Leeds' supplement of manager manager offered not his English saying: ever surprised up with every day.

Even Francis was ceded: "I admire Alan as a fan and a player."

Another decided tie in London son coronation stoppage wreck first hopes of a at Loftus.

QPR may praised by the match potential in the p wall's four against C.

The eye world have soccer success Wednesday scenes in forced the England's national agenda.

But the without victory said: "The thing about was the fan supporters selves to Republic national I goal space Wednesday.

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Auxerre's Moussa Saib (right) duelling Dogan during their French first division for the ball with Bordeaux's Jean-Luc match (AFP photo)

## Everton storm into F.A. quarters

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minute before Jeff Kenna was fouled and England international Mathew Le Tissier, who has only missed one penalty in his career, converted from the spot to earn Saints a replay chance at the Dell.

Le Tissier's penalty was supplemented by several moments of sublime skill and his manager Alan Ball could offer nothing but praise for his England midfielder, saying: "Nothing he does ever surprises me. He comes up with something wonderful every day."

Even Spurs boss Gerry Francis was forced to concede: "Nobody can fail to admire his skills and since Alan has been in charge he's found a higher consistency level."

Another dramatic penalty decided the other fifth round tie in London with Clive Wilson converting QPR's stoppage-time spot-kick to wreck first division Millwall's hopes of a quarter-final place at Loftus Road.

QPR manager Ray Wilkins praised both sets of supporters for their behaviour after the match was tipped as a potential trouble spot following the problems after Millwall's fourth round replay against Chelsea.

The eyes of the football world have been on English soccer supporters following Wednesday's disgraceful scenes in Dublin, which forced the abandonment of England's friendly international against the Republic of Ireland.

But the match passed off without violence and Wilkins said: "The most pleasing thing about the afternoon was the fact that both sets of supporters conducted themselves to a high standard."

Republic of Ireland international David Kelly, whose goal sparked the riots in Wednesday's Dublin friendly

against England, was again on target to clinch Wolves' 1-0 victory over struggling Leicester.

First division Watford secured a club record nine successive games without conceding a goal but were unable to score themselves against Premiership strugglers Crystal Palace.

In the two Premiership games, Aston Villa maintained their revival under Brian Little by beating Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 at Hillsborough.

Despite a second-half strike by Mark Bright, two first-half goals from Welsh striker Dean Saunders proved to be enough.

Former Villa manager Ron Atkinson, who was replaced by Little in November, enjoyed a victory in his first game since taking charge at Coventry with goals from Zimbabwean Peter Ndlovu and Mike Marsh sending West Ham into deeper relegation trouble.

Nantes reach new heights

France's top marksman Patrice Loko scored his 18th goal of the season as league leaders Nantes continued their brilliant form to beat Martigues 3-0 at home on Saturday.

Loko struck the first of Nantes' goals in the 24th minute and played a major role in another as the club equalled Paris SG's record of 26 unbeaten matches from the start of a league season.

Nantes will equal the overall French record for consecutive matches without loss if they win or draw their next match.

PSG remained unbeaten for 27 matches in the middle of the 1992-93 season.

Saturday's win, in a match postponed from last week because of rain, put Nantes 11 points clear of second-placed Lyon and champions Paris SG.

## Pierce, Graf in Paris final

PARIS (AFP) — Mary Pierce gave disgruntled French sports fans something to cheer Saturday by sweeping into a title showdown with Steffi Graf at the \$460,000 Indoor Open Gaz de France.

Unhappy French rugby supporters, trooping silently out of the Parc des Princes just a few hundred yards away after Scotland's historic victory in the Five Nations international, were puzzled to hear cheering coming from inside the 4,500-capacity Coubertin Stadium.

The noise was being generated by hundreds of young Mary Pierce fans watching their idol finish off Croatian teenager Iva Majoli 6-3, 6-4 in the second singles semi-final at the \$460,000 event.

The Canadian-born Pierce, who had come so close to being eliminated before recovering in her first match when she trailed Australian qualifier Rennae Stubbs 1-5 in the third set, moved one step away from her first-ever tournament victory in her adopted France.

Majoli, normally so steady from the baseline, could not match the sheer power of the recently crowned Australian Open champion and there was little she could do to prevent the 20-year-old Pierce lining up a sixth career meeting with Graf.

The German, playing her first tournament after a three-month injury lay-off, showed no discomfort from the back problem she must nurse for the rest of her career and she surged past her old rival Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-2 for her 22nd win in their 25 encounters.

"I was an excellent match, despite that soreline," said Novotna, adding: "But everything goes so fast when Steffi is on court. You have to try to slow her down."

"I think she's just as good as I have ever seen her," Graf, who revealed earlier this week that she had decided not to operate on a bone-growth in her lower back because it would mean nearly a year out of tennis without any certainty of success, said: "Obviously I'm extremely happy to be in the final. It makes up for all the bad times recently."

Watched by her parents Peter and Heidi Graf and Swiss coach Heinz Günthard, the five-time Wimbledon champion was still not one hundred per cent satisfied.

"Physically I still need a couple of weeks of good training," she said, "but obviously I'm really pleased with the way things are going."

Graf has a special score to settle with Pierce who beat her at both the French Open and Virginia Slims Championships last year.

"I know what to expect against Mary," she said.

Graf will also be particularly motivated on Sunday since, if she wins in Paris, she will recapture the world number-one ranking from Spain's Arantxa Sanchez.

Sanchez took over the number-one spot last week. Pierce, who has been playing doubles with Novotna all week to improve her serve and volley, said: "I've got nothing to prove. I'm just glad Steffi's back."

"I feel fine physically and the crowd support here has been marvellous. I think I can win on Sunday. I can only do my best."

Becker, Kafelnikov in Milan final

Big serving Boris Becker meets surprise finalist Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the \$680,000 Muratti Time Indoor event here.

Top seed Becker defeated sixth seeded Petr Korda from the Czech Republic 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, in two hours, 38 minutes, and Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov ousted second seeded Croatian Goran Ivanisevic 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4.

Korda said the German's big serve was the winning difference. "Becker served tremendously, that was the key to the match," he said. "I had five break point chances in the first set, but I hit the tape or had bad luck on all of them."

Becker's match win was his 27th in Milan, an event where he has taken the title four times. The victory moves the 27-year-old German one ahead of American John McEnroe, another four-time holder here.

It was McEnroe who handed Becker the first of only two losses at the tournament, beating him in the first round in 1985, Becker's debut here. Becker won the Marseille stop on the ATP Tour last week, his first tournament since a surprise first-round defeat by Patrick McEnroe at the Australian Open.

The German has never lost to Korda, and improved his career record to 5-0. The match was a replay of last year's final, which Becker won.

Kafelnikov, celebrating his 21st birthday Saturday night,

gave himself the best possible present with his win over Ivanisevic.

The number five seed, who capped a fast rise from outside the top 100 to the edge of the top 10 last year, crushed the 23-year-old Croatian's hopes of getting into his first ATP tour final since the Stockholm Open in early November.

Kafelnikov broke into the top 10 on January 30 and showed by his victory at the Forum that he is determined to hang on to his place in the elite group.

The Russian from the Black Sea resort of Sochi reached his last career final the week before the U.S. Open at Long Island, where he defeated Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

Martin beats Sampras

Two match points away from victory Saturday, Pete Sampras tightened up.

The world's No. 1 player won his first set 6-4 against Todd Martin in the St. Jude Indoor tournament semifinals. But Sampras missed two matches points and Martin pulled out a 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 victory.

Martin will play Paul Haarhuis, who beat unseeded Jonathan Stark 6-4, 7-5 Saturday night, in the finals. "It's like a bad dream," said Sampras, who said he couldn't remember the last time he lost when he had match point. In fact, it happened last May when he didn't convert a match point before losing to Michael Stich in Germany.

Sampras served for the match at 5-4 only to be broke by Martin, his friend and



French Mary Pierce returns the ball to Croatian Iva Majoli on Feb. 18 during their semi-final match at the Paris Indoor Open.

Pierce won 6-3, 6-4, to play German Steffi Graf for the title on Sunday (AFP photo)

practice partner who's ranked No. 10. The set went to a tiebreaker, and Sampras jumped ahead 5-1.

No matter what he tried, Sampras couldn't put Martin away. Martin pulled out the tiebreaker 8-6 for the second set victory and broke Sampras in the first game of the final set before winning.

"Basically the pressure was on me, and at that point he had nothing to lose," Sampras said. "He missed quite a bit, but he made the right points."

Agassi-Sampras eye indoor showdown

World number one Pete Sampras and fast-charging number two fellow American Andre Agassi could meet for the first time since their Australian Open final here next Sunday in the U.S. Indoor final.

The \$714,250 ATP event features 32 players, including world number five Michael Chang and Australians Pat Rafter and Mark Woodforde. But the main attraction is a possible Sampras-Agassi duel.

Sampras, a two-time Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, lost to Todd Martin in the semi-finals of a tuneup Saturday in Memphis. But he thrives in this city, where he made his pro debut at age 16 and won his first pro title in 1990.

Sampras has faced tough times off the court even as Agassi has challenged him for the top ranking. Sampras friend and coach Tim Lullik-

son has been hospitalized with a brain tumor and golfing buddy Vitas Gerulaitis died of carbon monoxide poisoning last year.

In addition, long-time Sampras girlfriend Delaina Mulcahy was hurt in a car accident.

"I've always kept a lot of things inside me on and off the court," Sampras said.

Schultz, Likhovtseva in Oklahoma City final

Top seed Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands and Russian teenager Elena Likhovtseva took drastically different routes into the final of the Iga classic women's tennis tournament Saturday.

Schultz needed just 64 minutes to power her way past eighth-seeded American Patty Fendick 6-2, 6-2.

The ninth-seeded Likhovtseva saved two match points in the third set before upsetting second-seeded American Amy Frazier 7-5, 2-6, 7-5.

The 15th-ranked Frazier appeared to have control of the match after handily winning the second set and jumping out to a 3-0 third-set lead. Frazier maintained her edge through the eighth game of the deciding set and found herself serving for the match at 5-3.

On her first match point, however, Frazier double faulted to keep the 19-year-old Russian's chances alive. Frazier held another match point in the next game, but could not put Likhovtseva away.

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Yusra, Mahmoud Hamedieh in <b>The Immigrant</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>Warriors</b> Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>CONCORD '1' SPECIALIST</b> Shows: 12:30, 8:15 <b>SPEED</b> Shows: 2:45, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2' ROBOCOP '3'</b>		<b>SUM'A in the satirical play HI CITIZEN</b> Composed and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaqien Daily from 8:30 p.m. Starring: Daoud Jalal, Haifaa Al Agha, Nariman Al Faqih & Abdul Kamel Khalaleh	<b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b> The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	<b>Presenting:</b> The political satire: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b> at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays



# Russia dashes hope of ceasefire with Chechens

MOZDOK, Russia (Agencies) — Russia's military commander in Chechnya on Sunday effectively dealt a death blow to talks with secessionist rebels, saying he would not extend a ceasefire which expired at 6 p.m. local time (1500 GMT).

General Anatoly Kulikov released a statement at military headquarters in the town of Mozdok saying it was pointless holding further ceasefire talks after rebels had attacked Russian troops on Saturday.

"The united military command has exhausted all the chances it had to stop the fighting and is now obliged to take adequate measures," said the statement.

Russian and Chechen military officials on Wednesday agreed on a ceasefire, later extended to Sunday. The two sides accused each other of violating the truce but nevertheless had been expected to meet on Sunday to discuss extending the deal.

"For a week we stood on the threshold of peace, sincerely believed in this chance and did all we could to achieve it," said Mr. Kulikov.

Russia drove rebel forces out of Grozny in early February after more than two months of heavy fighting that destroyed the city and now would seem to have little choice but to push for the complete capitulation of their opponents.

Gen. Kulikov blamed a small circle around rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev "ready to destroy thousands of people and buildings to further their political ambitions" for trying to break into Grozny on Saturday night.

The Russian government press service said 80 rebels were killed when a group of fighters used mortars, grenade launchers and small arms when they tried to move into the city from the west, near a big oil refinery.

"The fighting lasted from 1530 (1230 GMT) to 2100 (1800 GMT). Dudayev's unit was blockaded and destroyed," the press service said in a statement.

It said Russian positions near the village of Chechnaul, near the southern suburbs of Grozny, had also been shelled.

The headquarters of the Chechen insurgents, according to Interfax news agency, admitted the attack but said only two men had been wounded. The Chechen assault started at least 10 fires at the refinery.

In Washington, administration officials said Saturday it was unlikely President Bill Clinton would agree to a May summit in Moscow in light of the bloody Russian campaign against Chechnya's self-declared independence.

President Boris Yeltsin wanted Mr. Clinton to attend a 50th anniversary celebration May 8 of the Allies' victory over Germany in World War II.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said earlier it

# Israel considering gesture to Egypt on nuclear issue

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has offered to allow Egypt to inspect a nuclear research facility and is considering a further gesture to assuage Egyptian concerns on the nuclear issue, Israeli officials said Sunday.

The officials said the nature of the Israeli gesture had not been decided but that it might include a proposal to hold a dialogue between Egyptian and Israeli nuclear scientists.

The suggestion came on top of an offer earlier this month in which Israel proposed that Egyptian experts be allowed to inspect the Nahal Sorek nuclear facility south of Tel Aviv. "It is a serious offer, one that is a departure from Israeli policy," an official told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

However, the site has been previously inspected by international experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the offer did not produce any sign of softening by Egypt.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa has warned that Egypt may refuse to renew its signature on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel refuses to join it as well.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met Friday in Paris with the foreign ministers of France and Egypt in an effort to defuse growing tension with Egypt over the issue. The treaty is scheduled to be reviewed at a conference starting in April.

Mr. Peres indicated after the meeting that a crisis had been averted over the issue but did not give details.

The foreign ministry declined comment on the report about Israel considering a gesture to Egypt, which first surfaced in the daily Maariv newspaper.

The newspaper said Sunday that Israel was considering hosting Egyptian nuclear experts, exchanging scientists or making a declaration that would calm Egypt's concerns.

"There are talks going on between us and the Egyptians on a possible compromise," said Yigal Palmor, a foreign ministry spokesman. "There is an intention to calm the tensions and the unnecessary hate that is between us."

President Hosni Mubarak has rallied Arab countries to his warning that Egypt will refuse to sign the NPT unless Israel joins.

But Israel steadfastly opposes international con-

# Rival demands threaten U.N. plan amid new clashes in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — The United Nations peace plan for Afghanistan was plunged into uncertainty Sunday after Taliban militants, who captured another province, were reported to have set stiff conditions for a transfer of power.

Clashes were also reported overnight in Kabul between forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and challengers.

A U.N. official confirmed negotiations were continuing with the Taliban and President Rabbani.

"They are all making conflicting demands," said the U.N. official, who requested anonymity. He said that a majority of the people included on a U.N. list for a new governing council in Kabul were headed for the Afghan capital.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported that Taliban troops drove into Paktika, southeast of Kabul, at dawn Sunday to a rousing welcome by residents.

"There was no resistance," AIP said. The area housed no major military installations, but the capture is of political significance since its chief commander was Arsalah Rahmani, once deputy prime minister in Mr. Rabbani's cabinet.

The Taliban, who have become a key player in Afghan politics following their dramatic military victories over the last six months, now control a third of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, light arms fire and rocket propelled grenades were traded in west Kabul between the Shiite Hezbe-Wahadat faction and Mr. Rabbani's forces overnight, military sources said Sunday.

In intermittent fighting throughout the night, pro-Rabbani artillery shelled the Wahadat positions from a hill where the television tower is located.

U.N. mediator Mahmoud Mestiri, who returned to Kabul from talks with the Taliban leaders Saturday, said the militants wanted a neutral security force in Kabul before the transfer of power, initially planned to take place by Monday.

The Taliban, which want to disarm the country and establish strict Islamic law, have demanded that only "good Muslims" be allowed on a proposed council set to take over from Mr. Rabbani.

"They say the transfer of power will not have meaning if it is not supported by a neutral security force in Kabul at least," Mr. Mestiri said Saturday.

"I think it is a reasonable



CROSSING: An Israeli soldier checks the permits of the Palestinian workers at Erez crossing on the border with the Gaza Strip on Sunday. A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by an Israeli soldier Sunday morning when he allegedly tried to cross the border without a permit. Nearly 900 Gazans returned to work in Israel Sunday after being individually checked for explosives as the army eased a month-long closure of the territories following a suicide bombing in Beit Lid Jan. 22 (AFP photo)

# 3 PSD officers retired; top positions reshuffled

AMMAN (Petra) — The government on Sunday reshuffled senior positions at the Public Security Department (PSD), retiring three senior officers as of March 1, 1995.

A statement issued Sunday said a Cabinet meeting on Saturday decided to retire Major General Muayyad Mubaslat, (PSD) assistant director for traffic affairs, Maj.-Gen. Mahmoud Abu Hammour, assistant for manpower affairs, and Maj.-Gen. Hashem Al Qaisi, the PSD's inspector general.

PSD Director General Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan Sunday decided to make the following appointments and transfers:

Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Tarazi will assume office as PSD inspector general, succeeding Maj.-Gen. Qaisi; Mahmoud Hadid will become acting director of the PSD's Preventive Security Office, Colonel Adnan Al Abdallat will become head of the Zarga police department, and Col. Ahmad Al Ghamarat will become director of the Royal Police Academy.

Brigadier Abdullah Hababeh will be transferred from the Amman police department to the PSD director's office to serve as assistant for judicial affairs.

Brig. Ibrahim Sarateh will be transferred from the Royal Police Academy to become assistant PSD director for traffic affairs, succeeding Maj.-Gen. Mubaslat.

Brig. Ghaleb Zoubi will be transferred from the PSD's personnel affairs department to become assistant PSD director for manpower.

Brig. Abdul Karim Al Tarawneh will be transferred from the Balqa police department to become head of the PSD department responsible for officers affairs.

Brig. Adel Armouti will be transferred from the Preventive Security Office to head the Amman police department.

Brig. Abdul Qader Al Ouran will be transferred from the Zarga police department to become head of the Balqa police department, and Abdul Razzaq Al Rakkad will be transferred from the Amman department to become deputy director of the Zarga department.

# Jordan is still awaiting Israeli envoy nomination

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has not received any official Israeli nomination of an ambassador to the Kingdom and will act upon the issue as and when Israel formally sends a nomination to the Foreign Ministry, a senior official said Sunday.

Commenting on reports that the Israeli government had decided upon nominating Shimon Shamir as the Jewish state's first ambassador to Jordan, the official said:

"We have heard and read in the media that Israel is nominating Mr. Shamir as ambassador to Jordan, but we have not received any official nomination yet."

"We will follow up on the matter and do the needful as and when we are officially notified of the nomination," added the official, who declined to be identified.

Mr. Shamir, an academic and Middle East expert who served as Israel's ambassador to Egypt, was a compromise candidate agreed upon by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Israeli reports said.

Mr. Rabin had wanted to nominate Ephraim Halevy, deputy head of the Mossad secret service, while Mr. Peres wanted career diplomat and foreign ministry official Yossi Gal to assume the post, according to the reports.

The compromise was reached last week, and the Shamir nomination was formalised Thursday, the reports said.

The Rabin-Peres agreement on the nomination also cleared the way for the Israeli foreign ministry to nominate eight other ambassadors to fill vacant posts.

The Jerusalem Post reported last week that the tussle over an ambassador to Jordan was holding up the eight nominations. "Unless we know who will be ambassador to Jordan, we cannot decide on other appointments. If a person does not

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Go back to Tunis, envoy tells Arafat

CAIRO (AFP) — Yasser Arafat should leave the Gaza Strip and go back to his former Tunis headquarters to put pressure on Israel to implement autonomy agreements, a Palestinian envoy here said Sunday. Mohammad Sobehi, Palestinian delegate to the Arab League, said: "Arafat must consider going back to Tunis following Israel's refusal to implement the accord it signed on autonomy. He can't continue to stay in Gaza in this situation where nothing is clear in Israel's position. What is he doing there? By leaving he will put pressure on Israel." Mr. Sobehi added: "This decision can't be a personal one and must be taken by PLO authorities."

## Israel to hold naval exercise with Arabs

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli navy will for the first time stage manoeuvres with several Arab fleets off Tunisia in March, the defence ministry said Sunday. Ships from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia will take part with Israeli vessels, spokesman Oded Ben Ami said. The exercise was agreed at multilateral talks on arms control and regional security, part of the Middle East peace process.

## Iran holds mass funeral for 3,000 soldiers

TEHRAN (AFP) — A mass funeral was held Sunday for 3,000 Iranian soldiers and militiamen killed in the 1980-1988 war with Iraq whose remains have only recently been found. All the country's top leaders as well as military officials took part in the ceremony held in front of the parliament building in central Tehran and attended by thousands of people.

## Court acquits Kuwaiti lawmaker of fornication

KUWAIT (AP) — The criminal court has acquitted a parliament member of "committing a scandalous act" with a woman in a parked car and assaulting a policeman. His attorney disclosed Sunday. At the request of the defendant, Ahmad Nassar Al Shraian, lawmakers voted last year to lift his immunity for a trial, the first of its kind since parliament was established in 1963. Parliament members have accused the government of fabricating the incident to discredit the house. "The court was not convinced of the policeman's story and found it contradictory," said defence lawyer Imad Al Seif. The ruling was announced Saturday.

## Wife-beating threatens Israeli envoy's post

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The appointment of an Arab-Israeli mayor as ambassador to Finland was called into question Sunday after he admitted hitting his wife. "I slap my wife from time to time. So what," Rafik Haji Yihive told the Haaretz newspaper. The Labour Party stalwart and mayor of the Arab-Israeli town of Taibe has been pre-selected for Helsinki by a foreign ministry committee. He would become the first Arab with Israeli citizenship appointed as an Israeli ambassador. Labour Minister Ora Namir called Sunday for him to be barred. "A man who beats his wife cannot claim to represent the state of Israel in Helsinki or elsewhere," she told the army radio station. Ms. Namir appealed to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to find another candidate from the Arab-Israeli community "whose behaviour is more in line with our morals." Mr. Yihive also told the daily on Friday that he opposed the opening of a shelter for battered wives in his town. "A shelter would expose women to harmful influences," he said.

# COLUMN

## Major family caught in new love scandal

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major's public image as the "grey man" was splashed with a touch of colour Sunday with news his teenage son had been named as a third party in a couple's divorce. James Major, 19, denied claims in Sunday newspapers that he had followed in his father's footsteps by having a youthful fling with an older woman, his colleague at a department store. The revelation earlier this month that John Major had himself dated older woman Jean Klerans, before he met his wife Norma, left some media commentators wondering if they had done him an injustice by branding him a dull and colourless man. But his son's involvement in divorce proceedings, plastered over the front of nearly all Sunday's tabloid newspapers, may prove an embarrassment for the unpopular prime minister. He quietly dropped his "back to basics" moral crusade last year after scandals involving government ministers' own sex lives and financial affairs led to accusations of hypocrisy. The papers said gift shop owner Michael Jordache, 41, has named Mr. Major's son in divorce papers against his wife Elaine, 32. She was deputy manager at a Marks and Spencer department store where James was a trainee. They no longer work together. Her husband claims James became besotted with his wife. He had seen the couple cuddling at a pyjama party at their home, found them alone together in a pub and discovered his wife had been calling James regularly on her mobile phone. The Mail on Sunday quoted a family friend of the Majors as saying: "James played no part in the couple's split up. He met her at Marks & Spencer... they had a brief relationship. There is no question of him being a marriage breaker."

## UAE trader loses \$55,000 in 'magic' fraud

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) trader lost nearly 200,000 dirhams (\$55,000) after he was coned by three Africans posing as magicians who could make his money grow. Al-Khaleej newspaper reported Saturday that the Africans persuaded the trader they could increase his money by mixing it with a small amount of "magic" money and asked him to hand them 800,000 dirhams (\$220,000). But he invested only 200,000 dirhams. "They placed the money in a bag and one of them asked the trader to get him a drink. When he came back, the bag was wrapped in a piece of cloth," it said. "They told him he had to wait a few days before opening the bag. A few days passed and the Africans had not turned up yet. He became suspicious and opened the bag to find it empty." Al-Khaleej, which did not identify the Africans or their victim, said it was the latest in a series of swindles in the emirate.

## Policeman denies he is suing queen over fall

LONDON (R) — A policeman who fell while on guard duty at Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle denied a newspaper report which said he was suing the British monarch for £250,000 (\$394,600) compensation. Roger Mathastein, 45, agreed he was injured after falling into a hole left by workmen while patrolling the castle at night. But he described the rest of the report in the Sun newspaper as "figment of the imagination." "Don't you think that if I was in the process of suing the queen my solicitors would have told me?" Mr. Mathastein told Britain's Press Association news agency. "I am not aware of any high court writ being issued," Mr. Mathastein, who left his post last year, said he was seeking some form of redress for his injuries but added "there is no way we are even close to suing the queen."

**Egyptian police foil**  
CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian professional Monday to protest government interference in their headquarters, beat four rounded another. The professionals are protesting the government oversight of unions. They gave the government unions are controlled by the 42 independent fundamentalist organizations. Egypt's largest and others planned to engineers, lawyers and others planned to sympathetic in downtown Cairo and then march to the presidential office. They expected 5,000 to block the professionals from entering the union members were beaten, including two who was knocked unconscious. "About five me and hit me on the back of my head with of the doctors. One person was arrested. treasurer of the doctors' syndicate

Volume 19 Number 5850

## Media team heads for Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordanian official mass media Monday left Amman for Bahrain in response to an invitation by Bahraini Information Minister Tareq Al Mu'ayyad. The delegation is headed by Information General Nayef Maula and includes as members Hashem Khreifat Director of Jordan News agency, and the director general, Abdullah Utom. The delegation will meet during its several-day visit with Bahraini officials for talks on means of boosting and bolstering bilateral cooperation in media-related fields.

## Top French cop resigns

PARIS (AFP) — A top French police official, Jacques Franquet, resigned on Monday after an aide to Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur accused police of lying in order to gain permission to carry out a controversial wire-tap. Mr. Franquet, director of criminal investigations, offered his resignation to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the interior ministry said in a communique. Mr. Pasqua cut short a presidential campaign meeting in Marseille, southern France, to return to Paris for a meeting with Mr. Franquet.

## Sudan to hold elections in Halaib

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan will hold elections in a disputed border area in a move likely to inflame tensions with Egypt. The region, known as Halaib, is a triangular patch of desert bordering the Red Sea. Under an 1899 treaty, the land was incorporated into Egypt. But three years later, Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers, and both now claim it. The area is largely populated by Sudanese nomads. Sudan has registered voters in Halaib in preparation for the elections, which are to take place over several months, said Abdul Moneim Al Zain, president of the general elections board.

## GIA claims it killed intellectuals

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria's radical Islamic Armed Group claims in its latest weekly news bulletin that it is responsible for the killing of several Algerian cultural figures and six Tunisian police officers, the daily Tribune reported here Monday. The paper said that in the bulletin called Al Ansar and published Friday, the GIA claims responsibility for last week's slaying of Azzeddine Medjoubi, the director of the Algerian National Theatre, of Abdul Hafid Said, a student leader, and of Nabila Djahmane, the head of a feminist organisation.

## Verdicts in Mahfouz case approved

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has approved the death sentences against two extremists convicted of attempting to assassinate Nobel prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz. A military court ruled last month that the two men were guilty of carrying out a stabbing attack on Mr. Mahfouz and sentenced them to death. In extremist cases, there is no appeal to a higher court. Now that Mr. Mubarak has approved the sentences, the defendants have 15 days to seek clemency from him. Mr. Mubarak has so far rejected all such appeals.

## U.S. helicopter crashes off Somalia

MANAMA (R) — A U.S. marine helicopter crashed off the coast of Somalia on Sunday and one person is still on Monday. The Gulf-based U.S. Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement that four people were rescued when the single-engine UH-1N crashed in the Indian Ocean.

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